

ELLSWORTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
ELLSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Members Present: Abigail Miller, Acting Chair, Paul Markosian, Kelly McKenney, Elizabeth Alteri, Muneer Hasham

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Daniel A. Higgins, Superintendent of Schools  
Rachel Kohrman-Ramos, Curriculum Coordinator  
Ann Sargent, Director of Adult Education

Guests Present: Julie Hammer, EHS Teacher  
Gwen Clark, Citizen  
Laura Dyer, EEMS Educational Technician  
Nancy Sprague, EHS Educational Technician  
Pam Calcia, EHS Educational Technician

A. The meeting was called to order by Acting Board Chair, Abigail Miller, at 6:02 PM

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Adjustment to Agenda

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Abigail Miller, to Adjust the Agenda by replacing J. 9. with the following:**

**Consideration and Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Ellsworth School Department and the AFSCME Council 93 AFL-CIO Custodians' Unit Local 2178-06 and the Ellsworth School Department and the AFSCME Council 93 AFL-CIO Bus Drivers' Unit Local 2178-04 as recommended by the Superintendent.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

D. Approval of Minutes

**A Motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by, Elizabeth Alteri, to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2021 School Board Meeting, and to approve the Minutes of the June 22, 2021 Special Board Meeting, as presented.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

E. Communications / Correspondence

Superintendent Higgins reported there are several resignation letters included in the Board packet and will take them up in his report.

F. Public Participation

Gwen Clark, citizen, asked 3 questions:

1. Are Ellsworth students going to be required to wear masks;
2. When was CRT (Critical Race Theory) approved to be taught;
3. Were parents ever notified that this curriculum is coming into our schools.

It is unknown what the protocol for students will be at this time, there are many discussion happening around this topic.

Abigail Miller addressed questions 2 & 3, the ESD Board has not adopted Critical Race Theory.

Julie Hammer, Physical Education Teacher, Internship Coordinator and Department Chair at EHS, asked for support from the Board and Mr. Higgins to make the current .5 Health Teacher position a full time position and presented supporting information.

**G. Administrator Board Reports**

1. Building Administrators Report (Provided in writing with the exception of Ann Sargent)
2. Curriculum Coordinator's Report
3. Superintendent's Report

**H. Committee Reports**

Personnel Committee has met several times and Facilities and Transportation has met as well. Results of these meeting will be coming up later in the Agenda.

**I. Old Business - None**

**J. New Business**

**1. School Board Reorganization (Election of Chair and Vice Chair)**

**a. Election of ESD Board Chair for 2021-2022**

**A Motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Paul Markosian, to elect Kelly McKenney as Board Chair for 2021-2022.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**b. Election of ESD Board Vice Chair for 2021-2022**

**A Motion was made Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Kelly McKenney, to elect Abigail Miller as Board Vice-Chair for 2021-2022.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**2. Consideration of Teacher Nomination**

No new nominations at this time

**3. Acknowledgement of Personnel Committee's Action on Behalf of Board**

**A Motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Paul Markosian, to acknowledge the Personnel Committee's action on behalf of the Board in confirming the Superintendent's nomination of the following teachers, all with 1<sup>st</sup> Year Probationary Contracts for the 2021-2022 School Year:**

**Courtney Pearson, Grade 3 Teacher  
Sandra Bukoski, Grade 7 Teacher**

**Alix Sherman, Grade 2 Teacher  
Sarah Morris, Grade 5 Teacher  
Christy Weber, Grade 5-8 Special Education Teacher  
Rhonda Ulichny, Kindergarten Teacher  
Michael Ellison, High school Math Teacher  
Austin Borst, .5 Music Teacher at EEMS and .5 Teacher at EHS**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**4. Budget Update**

Supt Higgins provided members with an update on the impact of the revised State budget recently approved by the Maine Legislature. He also reviewed the options for use of the funds and the protocol by which the determination of allocation of the funds would be made. Included in this step would be discussion with the City Council. Further, he indicated that while no action would be taken at this meeting, the intent to recommend use of the funds to support a replacement boiler at HCTC and the expanded EHS Health teaching position, to allocate a portion of the funds to a reserve account for future use, and the majority of the funds to reduction of the local tax contribution to the cost of education.

**A Motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Abigail Miller, to amend the Agenda by adding an item proceeding J.5. : Consideration of Expanding the current .5 Health Teacher position at Ellsworth High School to a full time Health Teacher position.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**A Motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Muneer Hasham, to expand the current .5 Health Teacher position at Ellsworth High School to a full time Health Teacher position for the 2021-2022 School Year.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**5. Discussion and Consideration of Bid for New Boiler at HCTC**

**A Motion was made by Kelly McKenney, seconded by Abigail Miller, to approve the bid for a new Boiler at HCTC as recommended by the Facilities and Transportation Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**6. Update on Fall 2021 Return to School Planning**

**A Motion was made by Paul Markosian, seconded by Abigail Miller to amend the Agenda by moving J.7. to follow J.9.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**8. Consideration and Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Ellsworth School Board and Ellsworth Support Professionals Association (Possible Executive Session under 1-MRSA, 405(6)(A))**

**A Motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Abigail Miller, to enter Executive Session under 1-MRSA, 405(6)(A)) to discuss a personnel matter.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

Time Entered: 7:43 PM

Time Returned: 7:51 PM

**A Motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Elizabeth Alteri, to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Ellsworth School Department Board and Ellsworth Support Professionals Association as presented and recommended by the Personnel Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

9. Consideration and Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Ellsworth School Department and the AFSCME Council 93 AFL-CIO Custodians' Unit Local 2178-06 and the Ellsworth School Department and the AFSCME Council 93 AFL-CIO Bus Drivers' Unit Local 2178-04 (Possible Executive Session under 1-MRSA, 405(6)(A))

**A Motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Elizabeth Alteri, to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Ellsworth School Department Board as presented and the AFSCME Council 93 AFL-CIO Bus Drivers' Unit Local 2178-04 as recommended by the Personnel Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alerti, seconded by Muneer Hasham, to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Ellsworth School Department Board and as presented and the AFSCME Council 93 AFL-CIO Custodians' Unit Local 2178-06 as recommended by the Personnel Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

7. Discussion and Consideration of Staff Leave Request (Possible Executive Session under 1-MRSA, 405(6)(A))

**A Motion was made by Paul Markosian, seconded by Abigail Miller, to enter Executive Session under 1-MRSA, 405(6)(A)) for the sole purpose of reviewing Staff Leave Request.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

Time Entered: 8:00 PM

Time Returned: 8:49 PM

**A motion was made by Paul Markosian, seconded by Kelly McKenney, to permit the employees who submitted a request to the Board to roll over up to 15 days of unused vacation time from the 2020/2021 school year, to be taken in yearly increments of up to 5 days in each of the next 3 contract years beginning with the current one that began July 1, 2021.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

K. Calendar / Announcements

Meeting Schedule

School Board Retreat, Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 9:00 AM, Ellsworth Hampton Inn  
School Board Workshop, Tuesday, July 27, 2021, 6:00 PM  
School Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 12, 2021, 6:00 PM

L. Adjournment

Discussion:

A Motion was made by Paul Markosian, seconded by Abigail Miller, having no further business, to adjourn the Board meeting.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No

Time: 8:51 PM

Signed: Kelly McKenney, Chair

Kelly McKenney

Date: 3-12-21

