

ELLSWORTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
ELLSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
Thursday, August 12, 2021

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

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Daniel A. Higgins, Superintendent of Schools  
Dan Clifford, Ellsworth High School Principal  
Erica Gabbianelli, Ellsworth Middle School Principal  
April Clifford, Ellsworth Elementary Principal  
Travis Wood, Ellsworth Elementary Middle School Asst. Principal/AD

Guests Present: Gwen Clark, Bob Terwilleger, Dr. Douglas MacGregor, Casey Hardwick, Joel Farley, Karen Davis, Donna Tienan, Daisy Wight, Rylynn Clark, Kelli Casey, Laura Terwilliger, Trevor Casey, Sarah Flewelling

- A. The meeting was called to order by Acting Board Chair, Abigail Miller, at 6:00 PM
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Adjustment to Agenda

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

- 6. Add EHS Gym Bleachers to Discussion and Consideration of Replacement Bids**
- 9. Discussion and Consideration of Increasing Size of Ellsworth School Board**
- 10. Discussion and Consideration of Exit Interviews**
- 11. Consideration and Approval of Student/Parent Handbooks**  
**Move previous J.9. to J.12**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

- D. Approval of Minutes

**A motion was made by Paul Markosian, seconded by, Abigail Miller, to approve the Minutes of the July 13 2021 School Board Meeting as presented.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

- E. Communications / Correspondence
- F. Public Participation

**Gwen Clark** – Expressed concerns that the Board did not properly publicly post a public Board retreat meeting, except through an individual Board member’s social media page.

**Bob Terwilleger** – expressed dissatisfaction with mask mandates and that he is opposed to having students wear masks in school.

**Dr. Douglas MacGregor** – shared health related information and expressed support for starting the school year with a requirement for students and staff to wear masks and a plan to review local data to determine the ongoing need for masks.

**Casey Hardwick** – shared health related statistics and expressed support for optional masking in schools.

**Joel Farley** – shared information regarding hospitalizations related to COVID-19

**Karen Davis** – spoke in opposition to mask mandates in schools

**Donna Tienan** – shared concerns about impact on health from wearing masks and in opposition of mask mandates.

**Daisy Wight** – expressed opposition to requiring masks in schools and concerns about juuling at Ellsworth High School

**Rylynn Clark** – Shared information on a health issue that she lost theater last year and was glad to get it back.

**Kelli Casey** – expressed that she values community and wants to see the community come together and value the issue of choice.

**Laura Terwilliger** – Shared negative experience from 2020-21 school year and appreciation for her principal.

**Trevor Casey** – Shared that vaccinations should be part of this discussion and reminded members that there are students who are vaccinated.

**Sarah Flewelling** – shared concerns for mask requirements for her children and asked for the Board to offer choice.

**G. Administrator Board Reports**

1. Building Administrators Report
2. Curriculum Coordinator's Report (Presented in written form)
3. Superintendent's Report

**H. Committee Reports**

**I. Old Business - None**

**J. New Business**

1. Staff Presentation

No Presentation

2. Discussion and Consideration of Return to School Plan 2021-2022

**A motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Elizabeth Alteri, to begin the 2021-22 school year with masks being optional with the exception of high-traffic areas for all students and staff from Pre-Kindergarten through Adult Education.**

**Vote: 4 Yes 1 No (Paul Markosian)**

**A motion was made by Paul Markosian, seconded by Muneer Hasham, to sign up for the COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program offered by the Maine Department of Education.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Abigail Miller, to approve the ESD Return to School plan for 2021-22 as amended by the Board's actions regarding masks and pooled testing.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

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

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Kelly McKenney, 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:**

**Eric Terrill, F/T Health Teacher at EHS  
Janet Bertrand, Math Interventionist**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**4. Consideration of Superintendent Nomination of Staff**

**No nomination to bring forward at this time.**

**5. Discussion and Consideration of Disposition of Additional School Subsidy**

**A motion was made by Muneer Hasham, seconded by Kelly McKenney, to approve the disposition of additional school subsidy for 2021-2022 and submit to the Ellsworth City Council with a recommendation for Council Support as recommended by the Finance Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**A motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Muneer Hasham, to amend the agenda by moving item J 11 to precede item J 6.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**11. Consideration and approval of Student/Parent Handbooks**

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Kelly McKenney, to approved the Student/Parent Handbooks as presented.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**6. Discussion and Consideration of EHS Roof and EHS Gym Bleachers Replacement Bids**

**A motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Muneer Hasham, to approve the bid from Williams Roofing for replacing the roof at Ellsworth High School as presented and recommended by the Facilities and Transportation Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**A motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Kelly McKenney, to approve the bid from A+ Athletic Products for replacing the bleachers at Ellsworth High School as presented and recommended by the Facilities and Transportation Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

7. Discussion and Consideration of Equipment Purchase Bids – Finance Committee

**A motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Elizabeth Alteri, to approve the bid from Clean-O-Rama for Chariot Burnishers as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Abigail Miller, to approve the bid from Wight's Sporting Goods for EMS Cheering Mats as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

8. Discussion and Consideration of Curriculum Resource for MS Social Studies – Curriculum Committee

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Kelly McKenney, to table this item until a special meeting to be scheduled ASAP as recommended by the Curriculum Committee.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

9. Discussion and consideration of Increasing Size of Ellsworth School Board

**A motion was made by Kelly McKenney, seconded by Elizabeth Alteri, to explore with the Ellsworth City Council the processes required to increase the size of the Ellsworth School Board.**

**Vote: 4 Yes 1 No (Paul Markosian)**

10. Discussion and Consideration of Exit Interviews

**A motion was made by Abigail Miller, seconded by Kelly McKenney, to refer this to the Personnel Committee**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

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

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Kelly McKenney, 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: 9:34 PM

Time Returned: 9:37 PM

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, 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 2020-21 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 year beginning July 1, 2021.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**A motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Abigail Miller, to approve the staff leave request as presented and recommended by the Superintendent.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

**K. Calendar / Announcements**

**Meeting Schedule**

Special School Board Meeting, date TBD

School Board Workshop, Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 6:00 PM

School Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 6:00 PM

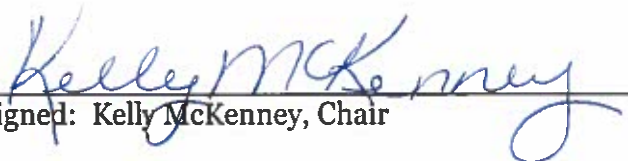
**L. Adjournment**

**Discussion:**

**A Motion was made by Elizabeth Alteri, seconded by Kelly McKenney, having no further business, to adjourn the Board meeting.**

**Vote: 5 Yes 0 No**

Time: 9:40 PM

  
Signed: Kelly McKenney, Chair

Date: 9-14-21