

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elwood, New York

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 9, 2006
Elwood Middle School Auditorium

A. CALL TO ORDER – District Clerk 8:03 p.m.

Present	Michael Kaszubski	President
	Joseph Fusaro	Vice President
	Dina Annunziata	Member
	Julie Badlato	Member
	Dan Ciccone	Member
Staff	Dr. William J. Swart	Superintendent
	Carl Fraser	Superintendent/Business
	Robert Annucci	Assistant Superintendent/Human Resources
	John Hogan	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
	David Cenerelli	Director/Special Education
	Carlene Granieri	District Clerk

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Board President

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (TAB A)

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board **table** the approval of the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of January 12, 2006 until the documentation is received. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM STUDENT LIAISON- Vicki Cangero

The National Honor Society Induction was a success. Forty students were inducted--3 seniors and 37 juniors. All students demonstrated a sense of purpose, service, scholarship and dedication to their community. All are proud of their career accomplishments and induction.

The Glenn Coffee House was held on 1/18. Teachers and students read poetry and some played guitar. It was a great night and everyone present had fun.

Last week the students had a program called "Rachel's Challenge". Rachel was a Columbine shooting victim. Rachel kept a journal in which she wrote about ethics, how to bring out the best in people and how kindness can cause a chain reaction. Rachel's sister and family published Rachel's journal and started a program called "Rachel's Challenge." The program encourages everyone in school to be more outgoing, supportive and friendly to each other. The program was wonderful and was very well accepted by the students.

The Boys' Track Team competed in the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden. The boys took a gold medal in the Long Island High School Boys 4x400. The relay team's members are Emile Barnett, Cliff Faulkner, Carlton Wildman and Billy Miltenberg.

Winter Sports are doing very well. The Girls' Basketball Team is hoping for an undefeated Championship and the Boys' Basketball Team is in 2nd place. The Wrestling Team will compete for a Suffolk County Title. The Boys' Track Team is doing very well.

The Volleyball-a-thon will be held on 3/3 at 7:00 p.m. Parents & students are invited to attend. The funds raised will go to a charity. All participants will receive a t-shirt. There will be 2 categories--a recreation league and a competitive league.

The Winter Dance held on 2/3 was a success, 216 students attended. It will be on the calendar for next year.

The Senior Citizen Dinner and Theatre Night was held on 2/8. The seniors were treated to a dress rehearsal for the musical, Seussical, the Musical. The dinner was served by the students from the Community Service Club, headed by Mrs. Carol Dano.

Tickets for Seussical are still available. Show times are 2/10 and 2/11 at 8:00 p.m. and 2/12 at 4:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

The Student Council Teacher of the Month Award went to Mrs. Carol Dano.

Mrs. Dano is an inspiring, active member of the Elwood community, a parent, and an encouraging teacher, who also supervises various sports teams. She does a great job organizing the Senior Citizens' Dinner Night and helps the students cook all of the food, gets the prizes, supervises the entire evening and does a great job.

Dr. Swart thanked Vicki for her report and reminded the audience she will graduate in 4 months. She has been accepted at St. John's, St. Joseph's and SUNY Albany, and whichever one she chooses it will be their gain and our loss.

D. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – Dr. William J. Swart

The first Budget Development Meeting to discuss the proposed budget for 2006-2007 will be held on 2/16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Glenn Library.

Subsequent meetings with the Board will be held on 3/16 and 3/30. The Board will adopt a budget, not necessarily the proposed budget, on 4/20.

The following statements were read:

Alternative Sources of Energy

While the District remains focused on energy conservation and alternative sources of energy, we will not do a feasibility study led by an external consultant on turbine-generated energy.

Because of the research of our employees, it is clear that the turbine-generated energy project is not feasible in our District. We have discovered that this campus is not in a high wind zone. Therefore, sufficient wind to drive a turbine is not available at this site. In addition, we believe we could never receive municipal or environmental clearance to construct a twenty-story turbine structure on this campus. We have initiated discussions about solar energy with a leading company in the field.

A statement regarding "An Offer of a Donation of Dirt to the District in November 2005"

A donation was offered to the District.

A resolution to accept the donation was not approved by the Board of Education.

Once the Board makes a decision, I believe we are bound to abide by it. Therefore, the donation needs to be returned or given to another private or public sector entity.

The donation I believe is safe. I have no reason to believe the dirt is contaminated. The terms of acceptance of the donation by District employees before I knew of a donation or before the Board of Education knew about a donation was a problem and required review by me.

I did not delegate to any employee my responsibility to consider whether or not to analyze the value of a donation and then inform the Board of Education about the prospect of a donation. I must know of any such activity involving the District before it happens – not after the fact. People who report to me must make me aware of a donation before it occurs, not after the fact. The Board of Education needs to be aware of any donation before it occurs – not after the fact. In this instance, that did not happen.

I simply want to state the facts as I know them and conclude by indicating that I am not aware of any current local, state or federal review of this matter. I do not anticipate any review in the future. I would prefer for the good of our two thousand, six hundred and nineteen students that this matter end now.
(Copies of the statement are available).

Mr. Fusaro thanked Dr. Swart for his comments. In reference to his remarks re the wind turbine, Mr. Fusaro who is Chairman of the Finance & Facility Committee, thanked Mr. Fraser and Mr. Butler for their diligence and research. They saved the District potentially \$4,000 which we may have spent on a consultant and netted the same result.

In reference to the donation of dirt, Mr. Fusaro said "I was the one who donated the fill and mulch and I was simply trying to help this district and our taxpayers by fulfilling a need that was discussed at a district Facilities Committee meeting. For those of you who know me and put me in this seat - you know that that's all I was trying to do, nothing more, nothing less. For reasons which are not clear, this issue has polarized this board for too long. I sincerely regret that this board was not able to work through this issue but it is now time for this board to move on and to work together, we have many challenges, much more worthy of our time and energy. Dr. Swart, if you need assistance in finding a new home for the rejected commodity, as always, I will make myself available to assist you. I continue to pledge my loyalty and commitment to the Elwood School District and to at all times, consider the best interest of the district in all that I say and do.

I would also like to thank the many individuals who have communicated their gratitude for my attempt to assist our district.
Thank you!

E. COMMENDATIONS – Tonight we honored BAE Systems.

Meredith Gordon, a Communications Analyst and representative for BAE Systems, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. BAE Systems gave the District a check for \$2,000, which will be used for staff development at Harley. It will provide teacher training relative to the Columbia Reading and Writing Project. Dr. Swart thanked BAE for being a community partner and friend to education. He noted that every Wednesday, 22 BAE employees go to Harley to read to the students.

Dr. Cancroft and Mrs. Gaiman joined Dr. Swart for the presentation.

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 8:21 – 8:37 p.m.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the amended Minutes (to include the attached transcribed Appendix dated Dec 8, 2005 document before them) of the December 8, 2005 Board of Education Business Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

(TAB B)

H. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(TAB C)

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer's Report for the month ended December 31, 2005.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended January 31, 2006.
3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Extra Classroom Fund Reports (High School and Middle School) for the quarter ended December 31, 2005.
4. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the capital projects report for the period ended December 31, 2005.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. E-mail notification system

The Districts' Technology Director, Mr. Gene Tranchino, reported on the new Email Notification service. Mr. Tranchino urged residents to subscribe to the service from the District homepage, <http://www.elwood.k12.ny.us>

Benefits of the notification include:

- It strengthens the connection between the district and the community,
- It enables residents to learn of events and get information from other organizations, and receive district-wide messages,
- It allows the district to do surveys,
- It's self-administered, you can unsubscribe if you want to, opt out of receiving postal mail, etc.

This was existing technology and did not cost the district any additional funds.

Dr. Swart thanked Mr. Ciccone for his input, since it was his notion to go paperless as a way of saving the district money and to provide a great amount of information to the community.

Mr. Ciccone replied that the district has come a long way in 2 years and has made tremendous in-roads in technology. He said we now have the right team in place and thanked Dr. Swart and Mr. Tranchino for their efforts. He is proud of the work in this District.

2. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve **(TAB D)**

personnel items:

<u>Position Abolition:</u>	<i>Patrick Cassino</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>
<u>Tenure:</u>	<i>Sharon McCabe</i>	<i>Principal</i>
<u>Resignations:</u>	<i>Lisa Locker</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>
	<i>William Gillen</i>	<i>Custodial Worker I</i>
<u>Appointments:</u>	<i>Amy Culver</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant (Special Ed.)</i>
	<i>Nancy Mancini</i>	<i>Part-time Clerk Typist</i>
	<i>David DeSimone</i>	<i>Maintenance Mechanic II</i>
	<i>Ann Marie Scarola</i>	<i>Senior Clerk Typist</i>
	<i>Darlene Schaefer</i>	<i>Food Service Worker</i>

Other:

- *Emergency appointments and reappointments*
- *Increase in assignment (.2 FTE) for a teacher at the HS*
- *Leave replacement for English Lead Teacher at HS*
- *Appointment of grade 1 and 2 reading teacher for Academic Intervention Services*
- *Title change from Maintenance Mechanic II to Custodial Worker III for employee at Harley*
- *Appointment of on-call security guard*
- *Schedule of interscholastic coaching staff for spring season of 2005/2006 school year*
- *Addendum to Schedule of Substitute Teachers/Nurses for 2005/2006 school year*

The motion carried unanimously.

(Mrs. McCabe was congratulated upon being granted tenure.)

- b. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the Committee on Special Education's recommendations for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services for meetings held on January 11 (2 meetings), 12, 13, 18 and 25,
- c. **and** that the Board approve the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services for meetings held on January 5 and 19.
The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the **(TAB E)**
R.F.P. architecture services for masonry restoration.
The motion carried unanimously.
- e. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board accept the **(TAB F)**

engagement letter from Callaghan Nawrocki, LLP for external auditing services in the amount of \$31,000 for the 2005-2006 school year.

The motion carried unanimously.

- f. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve Policy BBF- Board of Education Code of Ethics (2nd reading) (TAB G)

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mrs. Fusaro seconded that the Board table Policy BBF-R and send it back to the Policy Committee.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve Policy BBFA – Board Member Conflict of Interest (2nd reading)

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve Policy DIF -- Audit Committee (2nd reading)

The motion carried unanimously. (Mr. Ciccone noted his objection to the word advisory).

- f. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board award the food service bids as recommended by Long Island Schools Food Service Directors Association. (TAB H)

The motion carried unanimously.

- h. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the Biennial Review of the District School-Based Planning and Shared Decision Making Committee. (TAB I)

The motion carried unanimously.

- i. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the purchase of the Houghton Mifflin 2005 Social Studies Program for the second grade at Harley Avenue Primary School for September 2006.

The motion carried unanimously.

- j. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the purchase of Social Studies textbooks for the sixth grade at Elwood Middle School:

World History: Journey Across Time, by Jackson J. Spielvogel, Ph.D., McGraw-Hill, 2005.

The motion carried unanimously.

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Mr. Fusaro asked Mr. Fraser to look into the possibility of adding another access area to the High School athletic football field/track area. It could be in line with the stop sign at the EMS/HS junction. We have vehicle and pedestrian traffic trying to move in and out of the same area and it forms a bottleneck. It is a safety concern, particularly on Friday Night Community Events. It may be a minimal cost, perhaps adding a gate, which could remain locked and reopened on special occasions. He requested that Mr. Fraser explore this possibility and to bring his findings to the March Facilities Meeting for further discussion and report to the Board and to the community.

Mr. Fusaro also requested that his fellow Board members form a consensus regarding what items are discussed at Executive Session. He noted that at times discussion item topics drift, start, or end with an item not appropriate for discussion at an Executive Session.

He asked for consensus to agree to stop a discussion and ask the Superintendent for his opinion as to whether or not the discussion should proceed.

Dr. Swart will address Executive Session items at the next Work Session.

Mr. Ciccone had a meeting with the Health & Nutrition Committee (HNC), along with 4 Glenn students. Initially the students came to voice their complaints about bacon and cheese sandwiches, ice cream, and cookies not being served in the cafeteria. When the students learned the reason why the District sought the initiatives, the students responded that they never thought of it that way nor were the District's nutritional concerns ever presented to them.

He was pleased to report that he and the committee members found themselves brainstorming with the high school students on how to enhance health and nutrition in the District. The students made many recommendations: make presentations in Health & Gym classes, have a theme week on health, nutrition & fitness and end the week with a District-wide health fair in the spring. The week can end with a Friday evening Health Fair, with guest speakers and demonstrations

Mr. Ciccone voiced his concerns on the planning, implementation, and timing, particularly if we wait until March. He asked how to move forward.

Mr. Kaszubski suggested bringing the Health Fair to the Site-Based Committees.

Dr. Swart suggested the HNC have additional meetings prior to March 2 and then make a formal presentation to the Board.

K. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Correspondence 2/1/06 from Mr. Gerard K. Hannon

(TAB J)

L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 9:36 – 9:39 p.m.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION -- None

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri
District Clerk