

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Elwood, New York

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**March 9, 2006**  
**Elwood Middle School Auditorium**

**A. CALL TO ORDER – District Clerk 8:05 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)**

Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of February 9, 2006.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT FROM STUDENT LIASION – Vickie Cangero**

There is a change in venue for the Girls Varsity Basketball game. It will be held at Longwood High School on Friday, March 10 at 5:00 p.m. The team will play Wantagh for the Long Island Championship. If our girls win the game, they will go on to the State Championships. Please come out and support the team.

Winter sports had a successful season. The Boys Basketball Varsity Team coached by Mr. Robbins had a strong season, 18-3. They lost to East Hampton in the playoffs. Mike Carlucci and Mike Castellano are Suffolk County Champions in Wrestling. Gabriella Baiter came in second for Triple Jump in the NY State Track Championships. The Boys Track Team 4x400 were State Champions. The relay team members are Emile Barnett, Cliff Faulkner, Carlton Wildman and Billy Miltenberg. Congratulations to all of our athletes!

The Fashion Show is scheduled for March 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Elwood Soccer will start on April 6.

The Student Council Teacher of the Month went to the High School Physical Education Teachers: Ms. Ott, Mrs. Byers, Mr. Brocking, and Mr. Shanahan. These teachers helped to organize one of the most successful Volleyball-a-thons ever. They raised over \$5,700! The money will be delivered to the American Red Cross and the Long Island Epileptic Association. These teachers have been role models, mentors, and friends, and they demonstrate what teaching is all about. Vickie presented them with certificates.

- D. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS** – Dr. William J. Swart  
Every one was welcomed at the meeting and in particular the National Junior Honor Society Middle School students. The audience gave the students a round of applause.

He is delighted with some of our instructional initiatives. Our Teachers Academy will operate in the spring, with over 50 teachers enrolled for staff development. The topic will be Technology in the Classroom. This project involves Elwood teachers teaching other teachers. He believes this type of internal-driven staff development will be very productive. Enhancing professional development and activities for educators is part of our Strategic Plan. We are proud this segment is in place.

This week we filed a request for proposal with Senator Carl Marcellino's office. We asked for a grant of \$50,000 to be used for additional staff development for teachers to create a Teachers Center. He thanked Mrs. Trucios, Mrs. Stephens (the ETA President) and Mr. Annucci (the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel). He believes we have an excellent probability of receiving this grant.

Our Leadership Assessment Committee meets on a regular basis. He believes our teachers and our administrators will develop for Elwood our own version of Value Added Assessment. He is excited they are working on that project.

Congratulations to the Boys 4x4 Relay Track Team for winning the New York State Championship. He wishes our Girls Varsity Basketball Team well tomorrow evening and hopes they will be successful in winning the Long Island Championship.

Later in the year we will honor our three National Merit semi-finalists, because they have now become National Merit finalists. It is an amazing accomplishment.

Dr. Swart read the following statement:

*Our Board of Education members are elected by the community and serve on an unpaid, volunteer basis. They provide endless hours of service weekly. The members of this Board of Education are above reproach. Let me clearly indicate that:*

- *no Board member has violated his or her oath of office;*
- *no Board of Education member has abused his or her position on this Board or otherwise;*
- *no Board of Education member has done anything illegal.*

*I do not intend to include in the correspondence section of Board of Education Business Meetings any letters that are critical of individual members of the Board of Education. I will not tolerate any attack or criticism of an individual Board of Education member during the public commentary section of our business meetings. I will immediately terminate any commentary that I believe is intended to attack or criticize an individual Board of Education member.*

*Let me indicate that I believe that any previous attack on a Board of Education member was unjustified and unwarranted.*

*I also want members of our Board of Education to address each other with civility. I expect at all times courteous and polite interactions between and among members of our Board of Education, and I include myself, because I'm an ex officio member of the Board of Education*

*In summary, I believe personal attacks upon members of the Board of Education are unproductive and irrelevant. A Board of Education needs by definition to operate as a whole entity. An attempt to attack or defame one member is in my opinion an attack upon all of us.*

- E. COMMENDATIONS** – Tonight we honor three outstanding students:  
Tara Linitz, was the recipient of the American Association of University Women’s Excellence in Science Award. In addition to all of her talents, Tara was just accepted at Cornell University.

Emily Feldman was recognized as a Channel 12 Scholar/Athlete. Emily was a member of last year’s Championship Basketball Team. She was injured this year and has been extremely supportive of her team. Emily is an outstanding athlete, an excellent student and a wonderful person.

Justine Cefalu was a recipient of a full scholarship from Holy Cross University. All of the students received Certificates of Appreciation and audience applause.

- F. RESIDENTS’ REMARKS**- 8:19 – 9:16 p.m.

- G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

M. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the minutes and the transcribed documented minutes of the January 12, 2006 Board of Education meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

- H. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**(TAB B)**

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer’s Report for the month ended January 31, 2006.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended February 28, 2006.

- I. NEW BUSINESS**

1. DISCUSSION ITEMS -- No Recommended Items

2. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve personnel **(TAB D)** items:

|                      |                            |                           |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Resignations:</u> | <i>Carolyn Greco</i>       | <i>Teaching Assistant</i> |
|                      | <i>Tabitha Walendowski</i> | <i>Elementary Teacher</i> |

|                      |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Appointments:</u> | <i>Mary Makowski</i> | <i>Senior Clerk Typist</i> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|

Other:

- *Emergency appointments and reappointments*
  - *Appoint mentor for teacher at the High School*
  - *Appoint girls’ JV2 lacrosse coach for 2006 spring season*
  - *Addendum to Schedule of Substitute Teachers/Nurses for 2005/06 school year*
- The motion carried 4 ayes, no nays 1 abstention (Mr. Kaszubski).

- b. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato 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 February 1, 14 and 16, 2006,

- 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 February 9, 16 and 27, 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

- d. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the health **(TAB E)** service contracts for students attending private/parochial schools:

|                                 |                    |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Syosset</i>                  | <i>7 students</i>  | <i>\$ 4,524.38</i> |
| <i>West Islip</i>               | <i>2 students</i>  | <i>999.38</i>      |
| <i>Jericho</i>                  | <i>3 students</i>  | <i>2,267.19</i>    |
| <i>Northport-East Northport</i> | <i>46 students</i> | <i>23,591.56</i>   |

The motion carried unanimously.

- e. Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board adopt the proposed Resolution to set dates for the 2006 Public Budget Hearing on May 4, 2006 and for the Annual Budget Vote and Election on May 16, 2006. (TAB F)  
The motion carried unanimously.

- f. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board adopt the proposed Resolution appointing the members of the Board of Registration for the Annual District Election. (TAB G)  
The motion carried unanimously.

- g. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the following stipends for election workers effective May 2006: Chairperson \$8.50 per hour and Election Workers \$8.00 per hour.  
The motion carried unanimously.

- h. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board adopt the proposed Resolution appointing the Permanent Chairperson and other personnel to act at the Budget Hearing and Annual Vote and Election. (TAB H)  
The motion carried unanimously.

- i. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the following change orders: (TAB I)

|         |                              |               |               |
|---------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| #CO-001 | Whitestone Construction      | <i>credit</i> | (\$ 4,588.00) |
| #002    | W.J. Northridge Construction | <i>credit</i> | (34,153.00)   |
| #PL-002 | W.J. Northridge Construction | <i>debit</i>  | 606.97        |
| #PL-003 | Snow Industries              | <i>debit</i>  | 177.16        |

The motion carried unanimously.

- k. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board nominate Sydney Finkelstein to serve as a member of the Western Suffolk BOCES Board for a three year term commencing July 1, 2006.  
The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board nominate Salvatore Marinello to serve as a member of the Western Suffolk BOCES Board for a three year term commencing July 1, 2006.  
The motion carried unanimously.

- l. Recommend to **table** the motion to accept the donation of \$6,180 worth of \$20 gift certificates to the Oriental Trading Company as follows:

|                      |                 |          |                  |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| <i>High School</i>   | <i>100 x 20</i> | <i>=</i> | <i>\$ 2,000.</i> |
| <i>Middle School</i> | <i>80 x 20</i>  | <i>=</i> | <i>\$ 1,600.</i> |
| <i>Boyd</i>          | <i>64 x 20</i>  | <i>=</i> | <i>\$ 1,280.</i> |
| <i>Harley</i>        | <i>65 x 20</i>  | <i>=</i> | <i>\$ 1,300.</i> |

**J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA**

**K. COMMUNICATIONS**

**(TAB J)**

- 1. Correspondence 2/26/06 and 3/1/06 from Mr. Gerard K. Hannon

**L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 9:24 p.m.**

Mr. Kaszubski announced to the audience that they are welcome to attend the next Work Session which will be held on April 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Library.

**M. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board go in to Executive Session at 9:27 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board end Executive Session and to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 p.m.  
The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri  
District Clerk