

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elwood, New York

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 10, 2005

Elwood-John Glenn High School Library

CALL TO ORDER – Deputy District Clerk – 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

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	Assistant Superintendent/Business

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board end Executive Session and return to the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

A. CALL TO ORDER – District Clerk - Regular Session 8:19 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	Assistant Superintendent/Business
	Robert Annucci	Assistant Superintendent/Human Recourses
	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 L)

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the amended minutes (PTA fundraiser, Battle of Bands) of the Regular Business Meeting on February 10, 2005. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Student Liaison, Brooke Kluepfel reported:

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team is in Troy, New York, to compete in the state finals. Good Luck.

The students are concerned over the recent menu changes. Student Council members asked to meet with Food Service Director, Delia Nietzel, to discuss why changes were made and the implementation of more nutritional items in the menu.

The Student Council proceeds raised from the March 18th Volleyball-a-thon will be donated to Sloan Kettering and the Krista House, in honor of Mrs. Carol Cornelius.

The Student Council wants to create a website (run through the High School's website) to include announcements, events, and deadlines for both students and parents to utilize.

Elwoodstock has been rescheduled for April 13.

Dr. Swart gave updates on our Board Committees:

The Transportation Committee will meet on 3/17 in the Board Conference Room at 7:30 p.m.

The District Strategic Planning Council met on 3/7 with 29 members. They plan to meet again on 3/14 at 7:00 p.m. in the H.S. Library to discuss data analysis, look at past Student Report Cards, and review the Community Connect Survey. He is happy with the progress the Planning Council is making.

The District Financial Oversight Committee will be discussed in detail at the next budget meeting on 3/15. The committee members will be announced and they will begin their work shortly thereafter.

Last Thursday, a technology needs assessment was held with the Technology Director, Gene Tranchino. It was an excellent presentation and the Board members requested two public forums. A repeat of the presentation regarding our assessment needs, in terms of what we need in classroom computers and how to better use technology in the classrooms, will be on 3/21 and 4/4 at 6:00 p.m. at the HS Library.

New York State School Report Card (SRC) was published today in Newsday. ELA scores are up at the Middle School. He commended the District for their fine performance. He thanked all of our students, particularly the Honor Society inductees present at tonight's meeting, for their work in raising test scores. The true objective of the SRC is to get everyone in the state to graduate with a Regents Diploma. Last year 84% of our students received a Regents diploma. Elwood ranks 12th out of 57 Suffolk public high schools.

Budget meeting #2 is scheduled for 3/15 at 7:00 p.m. and #3 is on 3/31 at 7:30 p.m. in H.S. Library.

A Work Session is scheduled for 4/7 at 7:30 p.m. They will discuss the prospect of having a PTA Recognition Dinner and coupling that dinner with a Board/PTA Roundtable discussion. This is tentative since the Board needs to discuss it. He is looking at a target date of 4/27 for the dinner, depending on the sentiment of the Board.

They have developed a number of budget marketing activities and he will provide the Board with an update next Thursday.

E. COMMENDATIONS

Mr. Kaszubski wished the Girls Basketball Team well this weekend.

The Boys Track Team competed last week in Binghamton.

Freshman wrestler Mike Castellano competed in Albany. Mike was the first All-State wrestler in John Glenn history.

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 8:25

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- (No Recommended Items)

H. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(TAB M)

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer's Report for the month ended January 31, 2005.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended February 28, 2005.
3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Capital Projects Report for the quarter ended December 31, 2004.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Transportation Committee

Mr. Fraser reported that there is a meeting scheduled for 3/17. The committee consists of 8 members. There are 3 charges: to study and review current policy guidelines, to study the effectiveness of our routing, and to improve on the routing for those eligible for transportation. The hope is to make recommendations to the Board to improve on what we currently have. Mr. Kaszubski and Mrs. Annunziata are part of this committee.

b. District Strategic Planning Committee

Mrs. Annunziata, Mrs. Badlato and Mr. Ciccone are committee members. They are pleased with Dr. Bernato's insights and recommendations. They talked about their goals and parameters. Mrs. Annunziata said it was a productive environment and spoke of adding representatives from our ESL program, as well as the Huntington Youth Bureau which provides a multitude of services to our district.

c. Change order SW-001 for Ruttura & Sons Construction

(TAB N)

Mr. Fraser explained the change order for \$2,400 for replacing the dilapidated fence and \$800 to replace a damaged gate Boyd.

Fencing on a retaining wall had to be extended. Re-grading had to be done to ensure safety. The extension was not part of the initial plan. The cost is \$960 fencing, \$500 for posts.

Mr. Ciccone thought the cost of the fencing was high.

Mr. Fusaro said that construction manager, Mike Walsh and our Facilities Director, Mike Butler, are up on pricing and would have objected if they thought the price was high.

Mr. Ciccone requested the Board review all change orders. He wants assurances we will not go over our budget.

Mr. Fraser replied there are hundreds of change order items to be addressed. He makes an executive decision and depends on the experts to advise him on what has to be done. If he waits for Board approval, it may end up costing more, particularly when contractors have equipment on site, re-bidding will delay the work, or if safety is an issue. The Board has legitimate concerns when work has to be redone due to architects' designs or flaws, or when there are excessive costs.

Mr. Fusaro agreed with Mr. Fraser and said changes in the field are not always exact. When work clearly needs to be done, thousands of dollars of equipment are in place, and weather is a concern, these factors require a timely decision. He agrees with Mr. Ciccone that more communication and better understanding re change orders is needed.

- h. **and** that the Board adopt the proposed Resolution appointing members of the Board of Registration for the Annual District Election. **(TAB R)**
The motion carried 4 ayes 0 nays and 1 abstention (Mr. Ciccone).
- i. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve District Health and Nutrition Advisory Committee proposed policy IAB (*first reading*). **(TAB S)**
The motion carried unanimously.
- j. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve that Mr. Carl Fraser, Assistant Superintendent for Business, may register voters in the absence of the District Clerk.
The motion carried unanimously.
- k. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board of Education approve Food Service Bids as recommended by the Long Island Schools Food Service Directors Association to the lowest responsible bidders. **(TAB T)**
The motion carried unanimously.
- l. Mrs. Badlato moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board of Education adopt the recommendations of the Committee on Curriculum Articulation for implementation FY 2005-2006. **(TAB U)**
The motion carried unanimously.

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Mr. Ciccone requested that the Board discuss a response or readdress Mr. Mark Mediavilla's development/building plans for Orchard Park. He wants to send an official reminder to our Huntington town representatives stating how development of the property will impact our school district. He met with Town of Huntington Supervisor, Mr. Frank Petrone, not as a Board member, but as part of a civic association group voicing their collective concerns.

Mr. Fusaro suggested redrafting or updating our previous letter to the town.

Mr. Scarola announced that Assistant High School Principal, Mrs. Carol Cornelius passed away on 2/26. She was a very talented lady who gave the children 4 good years of service. Mr. Kaszubski added that Mrs. Cornelius would be missed.

K. COMMUNICATIONS -- None

L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS 9:23 – 9:24

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION -- to discuss personnel and legal matters, convened at 6:30 p.m.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri
District Clerk