

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Elwood, New York

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 8, 2005  
Elwood Middle School Auditorium

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – District Clerk 8:10 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

The John Glenn Chorus sang holiday songs under the direction of Mrs. Cindy Corso.

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

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of November 10, 2005.  
The motion carried unanimously.

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

The Girls Varsity Volleyball Team (NYS Class B Champions) is being honored at a dinner tonight. Student Liaison Vicki Cangero is a member of the team and is attending the dinner. Congratulations to the team and to their coaches.

Happy Holidays to all and hopefully many of you will use the change of pace to see family and friends.

The Holiday Concert schedule is: 12/12 Concert #1 at Glenn and 12/20 Concert #2 at Glenn, 12/13 at Boyd, 12/15 at the Middle School Grade 6, and 12/19 Grades 7 & 8, and 12/21 at Harley, Grade 2 Holiday Performance.

A Work Session is scheduled for 1/5 and a Regular Business Board Meeting on 1/12.

This spring, as part of implementing the Strategic Plan, we will have a Professional Development Teachers Academy. Our teachers will teach other teachers about the best practices on using computers in the classroom. We hope this model will help our professional development for years to come. Thank you to Sen. Carl Marcellino for giving us a grant to fund this project.

The process of developing a reasonable school budget for the 2006/2007 school year is about to begin. Budget meetings will be held 2/16, 3/16 and 3/30.

**Student Liaison** – Vicki Cangero’s report was given by Student Council Vice President, Kevin Callaghan.

The Holiday Head Start Party was held on Dec. 7 and was a huge success. Thanks to the Community Service Club and Mrs. Dano and Mrs. Cusano.

Mr. Glenn will be held on Dec. 14.

A Volleyball Tournament will be held on Friday, 12/23.

The Student Council Teacher of the Month Award went to Mrs. Amy Schombs. Mrs. Schombs is a Special Education Grade 2 teacher and a general education teacher at Harley. She created and helped organize an intergenerational activity for residents of nursing homes and our students. The residents attended musical events at the primary school. Her students also visited nursing homes and made crafts with the residents. The Elwood Educational Endowment also recognized her work.

The student body sent a message to the Board to please save Senior Privilege. They said it’s a welcome relief to take a break from school. Their parents sign all of the application forms; the high school administrators go through every application; it’s based on academic performance and behavioral eligibility; and only the well- behaved students are given the privilege. They asked to please consider all of these factors and to keep the privilege they enjoy so much.

**Guest Speaker**– Daniel Karpen

In light of increasing energy cost, the Board is exploring alternatives. Dr. Swart introduced Mr. Daniel Karpen to discuss windmill energy. Mr. Karpen is a registered professional engineer and consultant. Mr. Karpen presented his proposal for a feasibility study of Wind Generated Electricity for the District. Extra copies of his study are available.

The Board questioned the number of turbine units needed, the height of the tower(s), where it would be located, if permits are needed from the Town of Huntington, if roads need to be dug up, LIPA’s role, funding from Albany and Mr. Karpen’s experience.

- E. **COMMENDATIONS** – The Board honored teachers Wendy Braxton and Christopher Vandernoeth (Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers), thanked them for their individual efforts and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation.

The following students were also honored. Mr. Molieri presented Certificates of Achievement to:

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist: Michael Manas

AP Scholars with Honor: Michael Manas, Laura McDermott, David Sau, Shur Singh, Daniel Son

AP Scholars: Michael Carlucci, Emily Del Giorno, Lauren Del Giorno, Benjamin Fishman, Jason Isaacs, Tara Linitz and Meagan McAdam.

The Board also congratulated the EMS Football Team and their coaches for an undefeated season. It’s been 15-20 years since EMS had an undefeated season. The team will be honored at a dinner on 12/14.

Four students from Glenn will appear on Cablevision News 12 Long Island Sound Challenge on 12/17. It will air again on 12/18.

F. **RESIDENTS' REMARKS** – 8:56 – 9:14 p.m.

G. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** -- (No Recommended Items)

H. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(TAB B)

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer's Report for the month ended October 31, 2005.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended November 30, 2005.

I. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **DISCUSSION ITEMS** -- Closed Campus/Senior Privilege

The Closed Campus issue was discussed in detail at the Work Session last week. We have a number of exceptions to our current policy.

Dr. Swart was advised by our counsel that it was in the best interest of the District to abolish our Closed Campus Policy. Our policy does not accurately match our current practice. Those students who do not have a 1<sup>st</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> period, or leave campus at study hall, would be in violation of our current policy.

The issue will be immediately referred to our Sub-Committee on Policy for study and revisions. The Board hopes to have a policy in place soon after they receive the sub-committee's final recommendations.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board abolish our current Policy of Closed Campus-JEFA.

The motion carried 4 ayes and 1 nay (Mr. Ciccone).

2. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve personnel items:

(TAB C)

<u>Resignations:</u>	Donna Lynt	Speech Teacher
<u>Retirement:</u>	Jose Saez	Custodial Worker I
<u>Appointments:</u>	Alice Roche	Speech Teacher

*Other:*

- Emergency appointments and reappointments
- Increase in assignment for four teachers
- Co-Curricular appointments for High School and Boyd
- Resignation of Middle School costume advisor
- Appointment of staff for Academic Intervention Services
- Staff for SAT preparation courses
- Appointment of: After School Health & Nutrition Program advisor; After School Speech instructor; After School IBI instructor; Academic Tutor for Science for spring semester
- Increase in hours for senior clerk typist
- Transfer of Maintenance Mechanic III to Harley Avenue Primary School
- Appointment of on-call security guards
- Appointment of Girls' Varsity Assistant Track Coach for high school winter season
- **TABLED** change in assignment for boys' and girls' varsity track coaches (P-8, o)
- Addendum to Schedule of Substitute Teachers/Nurses for 2005/06 school year

The motion carried unanimously.

b. Mrs. Badlato 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 November 10 and 16.

The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services for meeting held on November 3 and 17.  
The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board reject the bid awarded to H. Schrier Food Service for non-performance based on the recommendation of the Long Island Food Service Directors Association.  
The motion carried unanimously. **(TAB D)**
- e. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve transportation contract for services with the Commack School District in the amount of \$2,209.28 for the period November 4, 2005 through June 30, 2006.  
The motion carried 4 ayes and 1 nay (Mr. Kaszubski). **(TAB E)**
- f. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the district calendar for 2006/2007.  
The motion carried unanimously. **(TAB F)**
- g. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve Policy JLG – Education of Homeless Children (*1<sup>st</sup> reading*)  
The motion carried unanimously. **(TAB G)**
- h. Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board **table** until the Jan. 5, 2006 Work Session, the bid award to Storr Tractor Company for TORO Infield Pro 5020 with groomer in the amount of \$15,680.  
The motion carried unanimously. **(TAB H)**
- i. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the School Facility Report Card.  
The motion carried unanimously. **(TAB I)**
- j. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the Five Year Capital Facilities Plan.  
The motion carried unanimously. **(TAB J)**
- k. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the acceptance of a donation from the Elwood Education Endowment in the amount of \$20,000 to be used at the four district schools, providing the funds are not specifically earmarked by the EEE.  
(\$7,500 to Harley and \$7,500 to Boyd for professional development, \$2,500 to the Middle School and \$2,500 to Glenn for student programs)  
The motion carried unanimously.  
(Thank you to the EEE for their hard work and for making these programs possible).
- l. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the increased appropriations for 2005-2006 as follows: **(TAB K)**
- \$20,000 grant from Senator Marcellino (\$13,000 professional development, \$2,000 mock trial at Glenn, and \$5,000 for defibrillators).
  - \$7,208 from Trust & Agency to General Fund
  - \$386,452.17 from Capital Fund for Tax Reduction to General Fund
- The motion carried unanimously.

- m. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve a National Art Honor Society and a National Jr. Art Honor Society for the Elwood School District effective for the 2006-2007 school year. **(TAB L)**  
The motion carried unanimously.

**J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA**

1. The topic of donated clean fill and mulch (voted on 11/10 and failed) was discussed and whether or not soil certifications are needed. The Board questioned if EPA guidelines are being followed, and if Comptroller Alan Hevesi's office and/or website warnings on contaminated soil are merely warnings, or is a regulation on the books re testing and we haven't done it or overlooked it?

Dr. Swart noted a school in West Chester accepted donated soil and it was contaminated. He stated there is a regulation on the books but it was probably never enforced until the West Chester case was cited. Dr. Swart noted he previously sent Comptroller Hevesi's website information re the West Chester case to the Board in an update.

Mr. Fraser and Facilities Director Mr. Butler are not aware of any soil testing regulations. Fill purchased 2 years ago and recently purchased fill were not tested. The Board also discussed if the soil donation should have been discussed in an open forum versus in Executive Session.

2. The Board requested a comprehensive report prior to the beginning of any sports season on the levels of attendance, participation and budgets for all school team sports.

Dr. Swart has sent an update re sports via e-mail and the Board will receive another update in tomorrow's Board packet. In addition, he will provide the Board with all levels of attendance for sports including intramural and extramural sports and cuts.

3. The Board requested prior to budget discussions, to have the topics of starting and ending times, including zero period at Glenn, EMS, occupational therapy and special services, arrival times for music, the unofficial start time of the school day, dismissal times, and Harley at the tail end of the transportation cycle, as discussion items on the next agenda. They hope this discussion will address, manage, improve or solve transportation problems. Dr. Swart will put the above items on the February Work Session agenda.

**K. COMMUNICATIONS** **(TAB M)**

1. Correspondence 11/2/05 from Elwood Public Library
2. Correspondence 11/28/05 from Mr. Gerard K. Hannon

**L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 10:20 – 10:24 p.m.**

**M. EXECUTIVE SESSION -- (No Recommended Items)**

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Happy Holidays to all!

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri  
District Clerk