

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elwood, New York

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 20, 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

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

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting held on September 15, 2005.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded to approve the amended minutes (location H.S. Library and note that counsel was present) of the Special Meeting held on September 25, 2005.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the amended minutes (location H.S. Library) of the Special Meeting held on October 6, 2005.
The motion carried unanimously.

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

The 3rd Community Gathering concluded on Monday, October 17th prior to the Soccer double-header. The school is the center of the community, and Dr. Swart thanked everyone who contributed to the three activities. He hopes to have a 4th Community Gathering in the spring in conjunction with a Lacrosse double-header.

Part of the Board's Strategic Plan is to enhance school-community relationships, and we are off to a good start.

(The Board also thanked Dr. Swart, Mr. Tuorto, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Annucci, Mr. Cenerelli, Mr. Butler and staff for their participation, and they look forward to future Community Gatherings.)

The 3 Year Strategic Plan to upgrade our Instructional Technology Program being implemented. The Board has allotted significant resources for the purchase of infrastructure and additional computers. There are computers in every classroom.

In addition, the District is pursuing funding from the Elwood Education Endowment, the KeySpan Foundation, Senator Marcellino, and Assemblymen Raia and Conti.

We hope to fund staff development to make sure all of our teachers have technology literacy.

Another objective of the Strategic Plan is to use value added assessment in our classrooms. During Superintendent's Conference Day on November 8, Dr. Scott Howard of Battelle for Kids will give a 1 ½ hour demonstration/presentation on the Value Added Assessment Pilot Model in New York State. The concept is to use data to diagnostically pinpoint weaknesses in learning, and once identified, ask teachers to modify instructional practices to address those weaknesses.

It's been a very successful model in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and upstate New York. Elwood may be the only pilot program on Long Island.

If you wish to attend the presentation please call Dr. Swart's office for seats.

The New York State Assessment Test Scores were received for the 2004-05 school year for the 4th and 8th grade. Dr. Swart is pleased with the results. Test scores have increased for both grade levels and subject areas.

He introduced Student Liaison Vicki Cangero and thanked her along with the other high school students for braving the cold weather and helping with the Pre-Game Community Gathering.

Student Liaison – Vicki Cangero gave the following report:

Tomorrow is Class Color Day and the end of Spirit Week. Also on Friday is the Pep Rally for all of the sports teams, followed by the Homecoming Dance at 7:00 p.m. when the King and Queen will be announced. All of the classes are working hard on their floats. Homecoming is on Saturday and the parade begins at Boyd. All of the students hope for a large turnout.

She thanked Dr. Swart and the students who worked on the Community Gathering. They had fun despite the cold weather.

The following Clubs participated in the Community Gathering Night and benefited from the revenue: Mock Trial, SADD, Natural Helpers, Kickline, JV Cheerleading, Tri-M, Habitat for Humanity, Community Service Club and Student Council. She thanked Dr. Swart for his assistance.

Student Council is sponsoring a canned food drive from Nov. 1-22. The drive will benefit the Helping Hands Mission.

The Natural Helpers Weekend is on Nov. 5-7 at Camp Alvernia. Various activities are scheduled along with guest speakers,

Competition Night has been changed to November 15, and she encourages 8th Grade students and their parents to attend.

The High School and Middle School will participate with the "Locks of Hair" program. Students may donate a minimum of 10 inches of their hair to be made into wigs. The wigs are for cancer patients who have lost their hair due to the effects of chemotherapy treatments.

A 5-K Lung Cancer Awareness Walk will be held on Sunday, Nov. 6 from Nassau to Massapequa. Mrs. Carol Dano and members of the Community Service Club are assisting. Anyone interested can go to the H.S. website for more information. The date conflicts with the Natural Helpers Weekend.

Tonight the Student Council Teacher of the Month Recognition Award went to Mrs. Kelly DiBiase for her help, hard work, and dedication given to the students for Spirit Week, Pep Rally, Homecoming, float building, Competition Night and many other activities. She is the backbone of the Student Council.

E. COMMENDATIONS –Tonight we honored:

Keith Brozzoski, Manager of Applebee's Restaurant, who intervened on behalf of the Girls Tennis Team to thwart unwanted attention by a male patron. Mr. Brozzoski also made sure the girls had transportation home and asked the girls to call him upon their safe return home. He was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The following staff members:

Marcia Zatulskis and Solomon Buchman were presented with Certificates of Achievement on being recognized by the national organization, Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Kelly DiBiase was presented with a Certificate of Achievement for being named 2005 Educator of Excellence by the NYS English Council.

Next week is School Board Recognition Week. The Elwood Board of Education was thanked for their many hours of work on behalf of the community and received Certificates of Appreciation from the School District and also from BOCES.

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 8:31 – 8:34 p.m.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- (No Recommended Items)

H. FINANCIAL MATTERS **(TAB J)**

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer's Report for the month ended August 31, 2005.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended September 30, 2005.
3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Budget Status Report for the quarter ended September 30, 2005.
4. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Capital Projects Report for the period ended June 30, 2005.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. GASB 45

Representatives from the auditing firm of Callaghan Nawrocki LLP asked the Board to consider the financial implications of providing post-employment benefits, primarily healthcare, to 219 employees. They asked what is the true liability at today's current value? They stated that the costs could be exorbitant in 15-20 years and suggested that the Board make a plan now to offer either cash payment to existing retirees, make current provisions for what has been earned by teachers this year with respect to their retirement benefits, or to consider some kind of amortization over a 30 year period.

- b. 2004/2005 Audit **(TAB K)**
 The representatives from Callaghan Nawrocki gave an overview of the audit highlights and their observations on items in conjunction with a 54 page detailed draft of the audit entitled Preliminary & Tentative Financial Statement for the year ending June 30, 2005. The auditors commented on the excellent cooperation of Mr. Fraser and Treasurer, Mrs. Raguzin, and the entire Business Office staff. It was a difficult audit for the district since Callaghan Nawrocki differed greatly from the previous auditing firm. The Business Office staff was responsive to any information requested and also when recommendations were made. They commented on the readiness for audit and stated that Elwood was the first school district on Long Island to be ready for audit by July 1. Mr. Fraser would like to have a Special Meeting on 10/27 to review the final Audit Report.
- c. Transportation Requests **(TAB L)**
 The District received 2 letters from district residents requesting bus transportation for their children to parochial schools. Their initial requests were received after the April 1 deadline. Dr. Swart sought the opinion of counsel. Counsel advised the District has no legal obligation to grant a late transportation request. Transportation Director, Mr. DeMais, tried unsuccessfully to share services with the Huntington and South Huntington School Districts for the first term. (The children would arrive 1 hour earlier prior to the opening of school). The parents from one family were in the audience and informed the Board of a time discrepancy. Mr. Fraser will inform Mr. DeMais and they will attempt to look at every strategy.

2. ACTION ITEMS

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

<u>Resignations:</u>	<i>Christine Pond</i>	<i>Spanish Teacher</i>
	<i>Steven Sinkevicz</i>	<i>Custodial Worker II</i>
<u>Retirement:</u>	<i>Bonnie Casey</i>	<i>Senior Clerk Typist</i>
<u>Appointments:</u>	<i>Patrick Cassino</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant (Middle School)</i>
	<i>Salvatore Latorre</i>	<i>Spanish Teacher</i>
	<i>Ellen Bailey</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
	<i>Doreen Bellino</i>	<i>Food Service Worker</i>
<u>Appointments:</u>	<i>Anthony Cerullo</i>	<i>Custodial Worker I</i>
	<i>Loreta Delvicario</i>	<i>Custodial Worker I</i>
	<i>David Desimone</i>	<i>Maintenance Mechanic II</i>
	<i>William Hagemann</i>	<i>Custodial Worker II</i>
	<i>Laura James</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
	<i>Christine Marchetti</i>	<i>Food Service Worker</i>
	<i>Andrew Schreiber</i>	<i>Custodial Worker I</i>
	<i>Connie Tesi</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
	<i>Russell Tillman</i>	<i>Custodial Worker I</i>

- Other:*
- *Emergency appointments and reappointments*
 - *Increase in assignment for four teachers*
 - *Schedule of Co-Curricular appointments for High School, Middle School and Boyd*
 - *Academic tutors for High School*
 - *Appointment of Lead Guidance Counselor*
 - *Increase in hours for part-time Account Clerk*
 - *Approval on on-call security guard*
 - *Appointment of Assistant Coaches for Middle School soccer*
 - *Schedule of winter Interscholastic Coaching assignment for the 2005/2006 school year (exception of JV Cheerleading at the High School)*

-- *Addendum to Schedule of Substitute Teachers/Nurses for 2005/06 school year*
The motion carried unanimously with the exception of the appointment of the JV Cheerleading Coach at the High School which carried with 3 ayes, 0 nays and 2 abstentions (Mrs. Annunziata and Mrs. Badlato).

- b. Mr. Fusaro 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 September 6, 14, 15, 16, 22 and 28 (2 meetings) and October 12.
- 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 September 6 and 29 and October 6.
The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the 2005-2006 tax levy of \$30,288,035. **(TAB N)**
The motion carried unanimously.
- e. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the disposal of old and damaged musical instruments and old and damaged books from Elwood Middle School. **(TAB O)**
The motion carried unanimously.
- f. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the food award of service bids as recommended by the Long Island Schools Food Service Directors Association. **(TAB P)**
The motion carried unanimously.
- g. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the acceptance of a donation of \$1,000 from the James J. Boyd Intermediate School PTA for the purpose of purchasing a laminating machine. **(TAB Q)**
The motion carried unanimously.
- h. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve an amendment of the language of a motion approved on June 9, 2005 and listed in the minutes on page 4, item k, from "*a supplemental appropriation of \$145,000 from the unemployment reserve fund*" to "*a liquidation of \$145,000 from the unemployment reserve fund*". **(TAB R)**
The motion carried unanimously.
- i. Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the appointment of Dianne Wilkinson as a Sub-Committee Chairperson for the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education. **(TAB S)**
The motion carried unanimously.

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Mr. Fusaro read the correspondence he submitted which is listed below **(Tab U)**.

K. COMMUNICATIONS

(TAB T)

1. Correspondence from Rosanne Keegan dated September 10, 2005
2. Correspondence from Gerard K. Hannon dated October 8, 2005
3. Correspondence from Joseph Fusaro dated October 20, 2005

(TAB U)

L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 11:50 p.m. none

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION -- (No Recommended Items)

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting at 11:52 p.m.
The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri
District Clerk