

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Elwood, New York

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 14, 2005  
Elwood Middle School

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	Assistant Superintendent/Business
	Robert Annucci	Assistant Superintendent/Human Recourses
	John Hogan	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum (not present)
	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. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of March 10, 2005.  
The motion carried unanimously.

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

At tonight’s meeting the Board will vote on adopting the 2005-06 school budget. He thanked the Board, Central Office Administrators and staff, and teachers, for their work.

The budget rate increase will be 6.99% and the tax rate increase will be 8.49 %.

The budget provides for a modest increase in teaching staff to accommodate our increasing enrollment. It will maintain present class size at all instructional levels.

It also provides for the maintenance of all current academic programs and extra-curricular programs. No programs will be eliminated, and it contains no cuts in instructional or administrative support staff.

It continues to add funds for the New York State mandated Student Testing Data Analysis Reporting.

It contains funding for principal and interest payments on the recent Capital Project.

It provides for increased costs for District health insurance programs, social security payments, teachers’ retirement and employees’ retirement programs and workman’s compensation.

Elwood has one of the lowest student expenditures in Suffolk County. On average our District spends \$3,000 less per pupil than any other Suffolk school district.

Last year 84% of our students graduated with a Regents diploma. Elwood ranked 12<sup>th</sup> among 57 Suffolk County Public High Schools.

It is clear our District maximizes use of taxpayer dollars.

Three of our students were Commended National Merit Scholars.

John Glenn students were selected to participate in "Leadership Huntington."

Our Girls Volleyball team won the State Championship for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year.

Our Girls Basketball team won both State and Federation Championships.

We have a county leading music program.

95% of last year's graduates went on to college.

A number of our students were recognized as winners in the PTA Reflections Contest.

94% of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students met or exceeded the New York Standards in Math, and 96% of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders met or exceeded New York State Standards in Social Studies.

Both the Harley and Boyd Schools have been recognized as "Schools of Honor" by the Suffolk County Reading Council every year for over 15 years.

He thanked the Board for all of their work to construct and refine the budget we will offer the voters on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Student Liason Brooke Kluepfel reported:

April 20<sup>th</sup> is the Pops Concert. The Chamber Strings, Vocal Ensemble, and Knightjazz will all perform. Senior citizens will be invited to a pre-show coffee, tea and desserts.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the Junior/Senior Fashion Show.

May 13<sup>th</sup> Theatre Three will give an all school assembly on underage drinking, drug usage and other destructive behaviors.

Student Council Elections will be held and candidates will present their opinions on May 24<sup>th</sup> and the vote will take place on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**E. COMMENDATIONS –**

The Girls' Varsity Basketball Team was honored for their historic and outstanding 29-0 season! The team won the Suffolk County All-Class Title, Nassau-Suffolk Class B Title, the New York State Class B Title and the Federation Class B Title. Student Council representatives Brooke Kluepfel and Ed Pietsak presented them with Certificates of Achievement.

Jacqueline Caputo, a representative from the office of Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, read a Proclamation and presented it to Co-Captains, Harmonie Calinda and Emily Feldman.

Ms. Caputo also presented individual Certificates of Achievement to Ashley Albini, Harmonie Calinda, Victoria Cangero, Shannon Colligan, Caila Desroches, Maria Feehan, Emily Feldman, Stephanie Geng, Lauren Glaser, Katie Gosman, Jacintha Miller, Melissa Rossi, and Heather Simone.

The team, along with Coach Andy Athanas and Assistant Coach Tracy Ott, received a standing ovation.

Suffolk Champion and All New York State Varsity Wrestler (placed in the top 6) Michael Castellano was also presented with a Certificate of Achievement, and likewise was given a standing ovation.

Athletic Director, Mr. Lou Tuorto, announced the 8 Fall & Winter Scholar Athletes teams.

**F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 8:25 – 8:28 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 February 28, 2005.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended March 31, 2005.
3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Budget Status Report for the period ended March 31, 2005.

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

1. DISCUSSION ITEMS -- (No Recommended Items)

2. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve **(TAB C)**  
personnel items:

<u>Resignations:</u>	Jaime Herrmann	Teaching Assistant
	Chris Feustel	Chief Custodian
<u>Leaves:</u>	Patricia Vaccaro-Scisci	Special Education Teacher
<u>Appointments:</u>	Jaime Herrmann	Special Education Teacher
	Kristen Pierson	Elementary Remedial Math Teacher
	Jeanne Kober	Paraprofessional

- Other:*
- Emergency appointments and reappointments
  - Summer Sports Camps personnel stipends and coaches
  - Addendum to Schedule of Substitute Teachers/Nurses
- The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve personnel Item P 8 – d (employees listed as security guards).  
The motion carried 4 ayes 0 nays and 1 abstention (Mrs. Annunziata).

- 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 28, March 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 18,

- 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 March 4.  
The motion carried unanimously.

- d. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board award the Boyd auditorium air conditioning bid to the following lowest responsible bidders: **(TAB D)**
- |             |                                |               |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| ACS Systems | HVAC                           | \$63,000      |
| ACS Systems | Alternate (General Contractor) | 7,000         |
| Roland's    | Electrical                     | <u>10,935</u> |
|             |                                | \$80,935      |

The motion carried unanimously.

- e. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve health service contracts for students attending private/parochial schools:

Farmingdale	2 students	\$1,126.06
Westbury UFSD	1 student	521.60
Northport-East Northport UFSD	50 students	23,910.00

The motion carried unanimously.

- f. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board reject the bid for a Toro Infield Pro 5020 with infield-groomer and a Toro Groundsmaster Model 4000-D, 11' wide area rotary mower. **(TAB E)**  
The motion carried unanimously.

- g. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board appoint Callaghan Nawrocki LLP to the position of District External Auditor, said approval subject to the execution of a retainer agreement.  
The motion carried unanimously.

- h. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board adopt the following proposed Resolution to submit the 2005-2006 budget to the district voters:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Elwood Board of Education submit the proposed 2005/06 budget to the district voters on May 17, 2005 in the amount of \$41,208,194 and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education adopt the property tax report card as required by Sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3) of the Education Law. **(TAB Mc)**

The motion carried unanimously.

- i. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the following change orders: **(TAB F)**
- |                             |            |             |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Ruttura & Sons Construction | No. SW-001 | \$4,660.00. |
| Pella General Construction  | No. GC-003 | 10,656.07   |
| Ultimate Power, Inc.        | No. Mec-4  | 2,480.90    |

The motion carried unanimously.

- j. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the disposal of obsolete items. **(TAB G)**  
The motion carried unanimously.

- k. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the reissuance of a letter dated June 10, 2005 to the Supervisor and Town Board of Huntington. **(TAB H)**  
The motion carried unanimously.
- l. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve District Health and Nutrition Advisory Committee proposed policy IAB (*second reading*). **(TAB I)**  
The motion carried unanimously.
- m. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the following policies (*first reading*): **(TAB J)**
- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| DG/DGA | Depository of Funds/Authorized Signatures for Cash Disbursements and Wire Transfers |
| DLD    | Expense Reimbursement for Business Meals  |
| DLDA   | In-District Meals and Refreshments  |
| DLE    | Expense Reimbursement   |
| DO     | Cell Phones   |
| DQ     | Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials and Equipment                              |
| DR     | Use of Credit Cards   |
- The motion carried unanimously.
- n. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board adopt the following proposed Resolution:
- BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District hereby approve the terms and conditions of the stipulation of settlement and release resolving a certain matter between the District and the parent of a youngster classified by the District's CSE and identified by student number 124602; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board to execute the stipulation of settlement as approved on the Board's behalf.
- The motion carried unanimously.
- o. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the April edition of *Elwood Education Highlights* with the addition of the names of the Girls Varsity Basketball Team members under the picture. **(TAB K)**  
The motion carried unanimously.

**J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA**

Security on our playing fields  
Our present policy of issuance of permits  
Hiring an athletic trainer

Dr. Swart raised concerns of unauthorized use of our playing fields over the weekends. While he is supportive of our residents using the fields, we have no security or monitoring of use or misuse of the fields over the weekends. Mr. Fusaro recommended that the District hire additional security for the weekends. Dr. Swart speculates the cost to hire additional security from now until October would cost the District \$12,000. Mrs. Badlato suggested that the District could find alternative means (such as posting signs) to notify residents that permits are required for organized use of the fields. This would avoid additional cost to the school district.

The procedure of granting field use permits must be refined. If a permit is issued for weekend use and the fields are damaged, Dr. Swart wants some form of accountability from the user.

He asked the Board what should we do about the security issue and permit policy. He suggests discussing both topics in the next Work Session.

Dr. Swart has received a petition requesting a full time certified athletic trainer (AT).

The District initiated a search for a part time AT some time ago but has not had a favorable response.

The Board expressed their concerns for having a person who is knowledgeable in injury prevention, correctly taping injured limbs, rehabilitation of injuries, and trauma treatment.

The Board discussed increasing our advertising and marketing strategy; if our enrollment increases, hiring a physical education teacher who is also a certified AT; seeking out physical therapy and sport medicine clinics, and local colleges; and reaching out to local newspapers and national associations.

Dr. Swart stated the AT is in the budget as a part time position. However, he is reluctant to commit funds of \$40,000 - \$50,000 for a full time AT. His preference is for a part time AT to cover after school, away games, and weekend service. He would rather appropriate funds for hiring a reading teacher to service the elementary schools and middle school.

The Board is interested in the way other school districts utilize AT's throughout the school day.

The Board suggested surveying parents and students re services they are looking for and also surveying our current PE teachers to see if they are interested in becoming a certified AT. The District could then offer a stipend, as a way of saving the District funds.

Dr. Swart requested that Mr. Tuorto research our current PE staff members to see if anyone is interested in becoming certified and to report back to him.

Dr. Swart has a part time candidate in mind. However, the candidate will not be in place until the end of June. The candidate must complete his course work.

**K. COMMUNICATIONS** -- None

**L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS** – 9:17 – 9:40 p.m.

**M. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board go into Executive Session at 9:41 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

The motion carried unanimously.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board end Executive Session and adjourn the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri  
District Clerk