

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elwood, New York

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 18, 2004
Elwood Middle School

A. CALL TO ORDER – District Clerk - 8:02 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 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)

1. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the amended minutes (Action Item o. Landtek Corp. and Discussion Item re Community Connect) of the Regular Business Meeting of October 14, 2004.
The motion carried unanimously.
2. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Special Business Meeting of October 22, 2004.
The motion carried unanimously.
3. Mr Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Special Business Meeting of November 4, 2004.
The motion carried unanimously.

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

Dr. Swart asked Student Liaison Brooke Kluepel to give a report. She reported:
The first Coffeehouse Night took place and was well received and the money earned will go to fund Student Council Activities.
The money collected from “The Penny Wars” will go to the Helping Hands Mission.
In December the students will host a Head Start Holiday Party for BOCES Pre-School.
This year’s musical will be “Bye Bye, Birdie.”

Dr. Swart reported:

On November 4 a Roundtable was work session held. The Board, Administrators, and Educators discussed K-12 curriculum concerns. At the February meeting, Dr. Swart and Mr. Hogan will discuss the recommendations of the strategic planning committee on curriculum articulation.

Dr. Swart hopes to have open discussions with educators, parents, and community members.

Dr. Swart urged all residents to take part in the Community Connect Survey by calling 1-800-441- 441-7443 ext. 3004. This is an opportunity to share your opinions, cares, and concerns.

Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball Team on winning the Class B All State Championship. Refreshments and a congratulatory cake were served in the cafeteria.

On November 12, more than 30 parents and teachers attended a District-wide Shared Decision Making training session. They discussed instruction, financial and personnel objectives, past successes, and grant possibilities for the District.

He thanked the Board of Education for meeting with him on November 9.

Dr. Swart apologized for a miscommunication on the meeting date of November 8 with the Elwood Tax Payers Association. He plans to attend their December 8 meeting.

He also will meet with Harley, Boyd, and the Educational Endowment Committee.

The 2005-06 school calendar will be recommended next week.

Dr. Swart, Mr. Hogan and staff will meet to discuss Value Added Assessment - student readiness, how to raise test scores, and instruction concerns.

On November 22, the Citizens Finance/Budget Advisory Committee will meet.

On December 7, there will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Education. They will go into Executive Session to meet with counsel and to discuss negotiations.

On January 6, there will be a work session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend all work sessions.

On January 13, the Regular Business Meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m.

On February 3, there will be a work session at the Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

On February 10, the Regular Business Meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m.

Prior to honoring the Girls Volleyball Team, all of our athletes were commended for their work throughout the year. They are students first and many of our athletes are honor students.

- E. COMMENDATIONS** – The Girls Varsity Volleyball Team was honored for their outstanding achievement in winning the Class B State Championship in Cortland, NY This was the second consecutive State Championship. The players were: Kathleen Bute, Harmonie Calinda, Alexandra Cangero, Victoria Cangero, Lindsey Corso, Jessica Dauenhauer, Calia Desroches, Kelly Feehan, Maria Feehan, Emily Feldman, Katherine Gosman, and Heather Nielsen. Coach Harrington and Assistant Coach Janet Simonsen were congratulated for their efforts. Each team member was presented with a Certificate of Recognition. Coach Harrington announced that the team was one of the top 2 teams and named Best in State. Katie Gosman, Heather Nielsen, and Calia Desroches were named 2nd Team All State and Emily Feldman and Harmonie Calinda were 1st Team All State. The team also received the coveted Sportsmanship Award. Special thanks were given to the parents, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Carol Dano, and Mr. Lou Tuorto for their support.
- F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS** – 8:29 –8:39 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 September 30, 2004.
 2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended October 31, 2004.
 3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Extra-classroom Fund Reports (High School and Middle School) for the quarter ended September 30, 2004.

I. **NEW BUSINESS**1. **ACTION ITEMS**

(TAB C)

- a. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve personnel items:

<u>Resignation:</u>	<i>Concetta Fiorini</i>	<i>Food Service Worker</i>
<u>Tenure:</u>	<i>David Cenerelli</i>	<i>Dir. of Special Ed/Pupil Personnel Services</i>
<u>Appointments:</u>	<i>Christine Anderson</i>	<i>Elementary Teacher</i>
	<i>Lynette Bubeck</i>	<i>Food Service Worker</i>
	<i>Stacey Mortillaro</i>	<i>Food Service Worker</i>
	<i>Kimmarie Walsh</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>

Other:

- *Emergency appointments and reappointments*
 - *Additional co-curricular appointments for 2004/05*
 - *Teachers for Academic Intervention Services*
 - *Homework club advisor at Elwood Middle School*
 - *Increase in hours for a teaching assistant and a paraprofessional*
 - *Schedule of winter Interscholastic Coaching assignments for 2004/05 (except High School Varsity Wrestling Coach)*
 - *Addendum to Schedule of Substitute Teachers/Nurses*
- The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve High School Varsity Wrestling Coach Michael Marino.
The motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention (Mr. Fusaro).

- 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 September 29 and October 6, 20, and 27.
The motion carried unanimously.
- c. Mrs. Annunziata 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 meetings held on September 30 and October 14 and 27.
The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the addition of Kathleen Kalafatis and Marybeth O'Brien as parent members of the Committees on Special Education and Preschool Special Education for the 2004/05 school year.
The motion carried unanimously.
- e. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the list of Citizens Finance/Budget Advisory Committee members for the 2004/05 school year. (TAB D)
The motion carried unanimously.
- e. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the donation of \$3,254.83 from the High School Graduating Class of 2004 for the purchase of sound equipment for the High School gymnasium.
The motion carried unanimously.
- g. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve change orders for WHM Plumbing at James Boyd Intermediate School in the **debit** amounts of \$6,938.57 and \$4,583.06. (TAB E)
The motion carried unanimously.

- h. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve a contract with Daytop Preparatory School for educational services being provided to a student that is a resident of the Elwood School District. The motion carried unanimously. **(TAB F)**
- i. Recommend the Board approve the request of the Greenlawn Fire Department to install a satellite receiver and antenna on the roof of the Middle School. **(TAB G)**
Item to be tabled for consideration at the December 16 meeting in light of concerns regarding insurance, workers' comp, etc.

1. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Concession Stands and Bathrooms – H.S. Athletic Fields

Mr. Fusaro wishes to head a committee as a private citizen, not as a member of the School Board and hopes to form a joint project with alumni and possibly purchase lights for the playing fields. Mr. Kaszubski inquired what the cost would be. Mr. Fusaro responded that this is only an exploratory/fact finding endeavor on his part.

b. New Board Member Training/Handbook

Mr. Fusaro expressed areas of concern -- how to bring new members up to speed, create more structure (similar to Site Based Management), and the need for ½ day sessions with the Board President.

Mrs. Badlato stated that she had good input from the Administrators, but the piece missing was meeting with the Board President or another Board member.

Mrs. Annunziata stated that it would prove beneficial not only to the new member, but would build a working relationship for the entire Board to meet prior to the July meeting. She also suggested that the new member meet with Mr. Fraser and Mr. Hogan to go over financial, audit and curriculum concerns.

Mr. Ciccone stated that his orientation did many similar things but he wanted more structure.

Mr. Kaszubski stated that current members would also benefit from the aforementioned. Dr. Swart will prepare a draft for the January meeting.

c. Board Steering Committees

Mr. Ciccone commented on suggestions the Board received from the CFBAC, citing the need for Steering Committees (SC). He suggested the Board form committees similar to the very productive Health & Nutrition committee. Possible SC's are Academic & Co-Curriculum, Operations (facilities), Revenue, bring back Legislative, and Volunteer Initiatives. He noted that the District has resourceful residents and could be an asset in strategic planning.

Dr. Swart would like to go forward with the SC, and suggested putting them on our web site. He cautioned however, that he does not want to offend any previous committee members. He would like to continue this topic in an open forum, where he would present models used by his previous School District. He would possibly assign Board Members to certain committees. Dr. Swart will have a list of Steering Committee sub-chairs and co-chair liaisons for the January 6 Meeting.

d. Draft Policy on Correspondence

Mrs. Annunziata raised concerns regarding the Board policy on correspondence, including how to respond to correspondence and what should be included in the agenda book.

A lengthy discussion ensued on a document Mrs. Badlato submitted to the Board, relating to proposed guidelines for responses to public correspondence and complaints, a draft response letter, and community relations goals.

Mr. Ciccone noted that it should be up to the discretion of the Superintendent and Board President as to what correspondence should be published, while maintaining the rules for public collaboration.

Mr. Kaszubski noted that the policy also include the date the correspondence is received, when the Board received It, and that all complaints addressed must be in writing, not from a phone call someone received.

Dr. Swart will edit Mrs. Badlato's document and requested all the Board Members submit their ideas, and he will present another draft.

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Mr. Fusaro requested that Mr. Hogan give his strategy for curriculum either in February or March. Mr. Hogan responded that he had a meeting this afternoon and he will discuss developing a survey.

Mr. Fusaro asked if Discussion Items should be moved to front of the agenda.

Mr. Kaszubski replied that Dr. Swart is planning on additional work-sessions, and we may not need to change the agenda. He suggested to table this for the January meeting or if the Board would like to try a new format at the next meeting.

Mrs. Annunziata commented on a conversation she had with Ms. Granieri not being able to clearly hear the Board Members at the Business Meetings. Various community residents have voiced similar concerns. Mrs. Annunziata asked the Board to consider moving the venue to the Middle School Library where it is more suitable, less staged, and more interactive with the community.

Mr. Ciccone thought the Nov. 4 roundtable went well, but he would like a more coordinated plan to move forward. He questioned the need for another VP at Glenn, and how to deal with a lower enrichment and differentiation budget.

Mr. Ciccione expressed safety concerns at Boyd. This week an ambulance had difficulty getting to the building due to cars parked in the fire lane. He stated more enforcement is needed, additional parking spaces are required, and perhaps signs should be placed directing emergency vehicles. Dr. Swart spoke to Mrs. McCabe and they will discuss an evacuation plan with professionals.

Mr. Ciccone noticed speed detectors near Northport H.S. and inquired if Elwood is getting one. Mr. Fraser responded, yes, we have one placed between the EMS and Glenn and it can be moved to any location.

Mrs. Annunziata asked if the traffic signals on Elwood Rd. could be adjusted for vehicles entering the High School between 7:15-7:25 a.m. The back up causes a bottleneck.

K. COMMUNICATIONS -- (No Recommended Items)

L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 10:30 – 10:44 p.m.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION -- (No Recommended Items)

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Congratulations to Mr. Cenerelli on receiving tenure.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlene Granieri
District Clerk