

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elwood, New York

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 28, 2003

Elwood Middle School

A. CALL TO ORDER – District Clerk 8:09 p.m.

Present Michael Kaszubski President

Bill Cameron Vice President

Dina Annunziata Member

Dan Ciccone Member

Joseph Fusaro Member

Staff Michael A. Maina Superintendent

Carl Fraser Assistant Superintendent/Business

Robert Annucci Assistant superintendent/Human Recourses

Kathleen Semergieff Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum

David Cenerelli Director/Special Education

Nancy Raguzin Treasurer

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. Cameron seconded that the Board approve the amended minutes (Mr. Ciccone's remarks re review of Other Appointments) of the Reorganization/Regular Business Meeting of July 1, 2003.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – Michael A. Maina

It has been a busy summer. All administrators and staff were thanked for their efforts throughout the disruption of services (no electricity) during the summer months.

Most of the capital projects are on time with the exception of the High School/Middle School fields. One science room in the Middle School is not yet ready, likewise, one bathroom in the High School. Individual projects are substantially completed.

New traffic patterns are in place at both the High School and Middle School, and information will go home to the students. Staff will be on hand to direct traffic for the next few weeks to insure a safe environment for all.

We now have over 2,500 students, which is an increase of 3% and still on target.

Months earlier we talked of laying off teachers; however, some teachers have decided to relocate, and Albany has re-instituted class size reduction, so the district had to hire 26 new staff members.

Page 1 – Minutes 8/28/03

The Board of Education members were thanked for their efforts touring all buildings. They have made certain that everything is in place for a safe Wednesday opening.

Mr. Fraser gave his report on progress of all capital projects, and representatives from Sullivan and Nickel and Cameron Engineering were present to answer questions from the Board members.

Mr. Fraser stated that most of the capital work is on time with the exception of the High School and Middle School fields, and High School Library, which is scheduled for completion in mid-September and windows in by the end of September or the beginning of October.

The rainy spring and summer was a major stumbling block and slowed progress. Kevin McAndrew, a Landscape Architect from Cameron Engineering, was asked to comment on the athletic fields at the Middle and High School campus. After top soil had been added to the sand and compost and the sand was screened, the Board asked for additional testing be done to ensure the highest quality playing fields. The fill used was not up to specs and the test lab mix ratio failed. Mr. McAndrew then sent samples to Cornell turf specialist, Mr. Hummell. It did not meet the specs. The contractor has stopped screening and precious time is being lost.

The issues of drainage and soil compaction were discussed.

Mr. McAndrew will contact Mr. Hummel from Cornell ASAP (long holiday weekend) and will report the findings to the Board.

Ruttura was not represented at tonight's meeting.

The District wants the athletic fields to be ready for the students; however, this is a collaborative effort and all parties want a solution but it must be done right!

Mr. Maina thanked Mr. Fusaro for spending time with both Mr. Fraser and Mr. Walsh and remarked on what a tremendous team Elwood has assembled.

E. COMMENDATIONS – None

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – None

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 months ended June 30 and July 31, 2003.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Reports for the months ended June 30 and July 31, 2003.

Page 2 – Minutes 8/28/03

3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Budget Status Report for the year ended June 30, 2003.
4. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Middle and High School Extraclassroom Activity Reports for the quarter and year ended June 30, 2003.
5. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Capital Projects Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2003.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS

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

Resignations: Biagina Antorino Elementary Teacher

Carrie Breuer Elementary Teacher

Robert Gilmor III Social Worker

Kerry McPhail Elementary Teacher

Eileen Scourtos Foreign Language Teacher

Lisa Smith Elementary Teacher

Michelle Staszak Reading Teacher

Andrea Doyle Paraprofessional

Leaves: Jenine Harris Mathematics Teacher

Appointments: Eleanor Mae Abbott Science Teacher

Alison Adelman Family & Consumer Science Teacher

Gerielen Bodenbergh Physical Education Teacher

Elizabeth Bromley School Medial Specialist (Library)
Deanna Levy Cammarata Elementary Teacher
Patricia Collins Elementary Teacher
Jessica Gates Elementary Teacher
Deborah Holloway Teaching Assistant
Carole Khatir French Teacher
Marianne Migut Physical Education Teacher
Scott Post Mathematics Teacher
Stephen Robins Physical Education Teacher
Mary Kate Romaine Elementary Teacher
Melissa Alper Sheahan Elementary Teacher
Marci Stern English Teacher
Jennifer Trounson English as a Second Language Teacher
Christopher Verdone Social Studies Teacher
Tabitha Walendowski Elementary Teacher

Other:

- Emergency appointments and reappointments*
 - 2003/04 compensation for technology contractors*
 - Staff for Summer Skills Program*
 - Curriculum Assistant – Special Education*
 - Assignment increase for social studies teacher*
 - Increase in hours for food service worker*
- Page 3 – Minutes 8/28/03*
- College/summer custodial helper*
 - Interscholastic coaches for the 2003/04 fall season*
 - Schedule of Substitute Teachers/Nurses for the 2003/04 school year*

The motion carried unanimously.

New staff members were introduced.

b. Mrs. Annunziata 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:

Submitted to the Board Meeting Dates

July 18, 2003 June 12, June 18, July 9

August 22, 2003 July 23, 2003

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:

Submitted to the Board Meeting Dates

July 18, 2003 May 19, May 27, June 13, July 8

August 22, 2003 July 23, 2003

The motion carried unanimously.

d. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board approve **(TAB D)** rental of classroom space in the Middle and High Schools to Western Suffolk BOCES ALC Program for the 2003/04 school year.

The motion carried unanimously.

e. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the continued use of Harley, Boyd and the Middle School for before and after school child care programs by Elwood Cares and Scope.

The motion carried unanimously.

f. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve **(TAB E)** the extension of the Transportation Contract with Acme Bus for Variety Pre-School at the C.P.I. for the 2003-04 school year.

The motion carried unanimously.

g. Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the following health service contracts:

Farmingdale Public Schools 2 students \$1,015.68

Plainview Old Bethpage CSD 2 students 1,044.00 (2001-02)

Plainview Old Bethpage CSD 1 student 524.00 (2002-03)

The motion carried unanimously.

Prior to the following vote a lengthy discussion took place going over the change order. Mr. Fraser and Board members asked Sullivan & Nickel's Construction Manager, Tom Slattery and, Joe Chiarelli, from Sullivan & Nickel, to explain the reasons for the change order:

Page 4 – Minutes 8/28/03

Additional steel was needed to support the roof deck, an additional beam, additional work on existing canopies, additional roof plans not indicated on roof plans and roof frames needed in the gym, modified to meet existing conditions.

Most of this work was not indicated on the original architectural plans/drawings (Baldassano Architect), however, the work had to be done. No one is defending Baldassano, but all construction usually has a 10% contingency for unforeseen elements. Mr. Slattery said that contractors interpret what the architect states and things are picked up during construction and it is a system of checks and balances.

Mr. Chiarelli stated that there exist certain problems inherent with the Wicks Law (lump sum bid).

In conclusion, the bid would have been higher if the cost of the additional steel was in the original bid.

The Board has requested that the architect be present at the September 18, 2003 meeting to address the change order question regarding the "additional steel needed to support roof deck."

h. Mr. Cameron moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve **(TAB F)**

Change Order No. ST-1 for Capital Projects for work being performed at James H. Boyd Intermediate School by EPS Iron Works in the debit amount of \$18,000.

The motion carried 4 ayes 0 nays and 1 abstention (Mr. Fusaro).

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board add a second Residents' Remarks at the end of the agenda on only items voted on and/or discussed at the business meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Mrs. Annunziata thanked Mr. Annucci for spearheading all new hires and presiding over scores of interviews.

Mr. Cameron asked what is being done by the state on the recent Math exam?

Mr. Maina responded that the Math A Regent's Exam may be rescaled. Mr. Hogan responded that unless the state does something about the current Math A scoring,

the results in January may not be any better.

Mr. Cameron suggested that a letter be drafted to let our voices be heard in Albany.

Mr. Ciccone requested another work session to discuss establishing a citizen budget advisory committee.

Page 5 – Minutes 8/28/03

Page 6 – Minutes 8/28/03

The Board will hold a work session one hour prior to (7-8:00 p.m.) the next Board of Education Meeting, Thursday, September 18.

SECOND RESIDENTS' REMARKS

Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve an additional Resident's Remarks for tonight's meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resident's Remark's - 10:33 – 10:37 p.m.

K. COMMUNICATIONS -- (No Recommended Items)

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION .

Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of real property.

The motion carried unanimously.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board end the Executive

Session and to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri

District Clerk