

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elwood, New York

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 18, 2003
Elwood Middle School

- A. **CALL TO ORDER** – District Clerk 8:20 p.m.
- B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Board President
- C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)** (TAB G)

Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the amended minutes (re capital projects, on time with exception of Middle & High School athletic fields) of the Regular Business Meeting of August 28, 2003.

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

The Board will contact Administration and the District Clerk by e-mail if the draft minutes need to be amended.

- D. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS** – Michael A. Maina
The audience was asked to peruse the agenda, and to note under Communications, a Second Resident's Remarks was added for tonight's meeting.

Mr. Ciccone previously asked Administration if Board Agenda Books could be made available at the Board meetings. Three Agenda books are now on a table in the rear of the auditorium. Please do not remove them, as they will be collected at the end of the meeting. The Board Agenda book will be available in the Main Office of each school for residents to peruse, on the Monday of the monthly Board Meeting.

The staff put in long hours in readying the schools for a successful opening. We have over 2,500 students to instruct, transport, and provide lunches. Everyone has done a great job to make it all come together.

The architects, and construction manager were thanked for the day to day operations.

Work continues on the athletic fields.

As of today we have 2,509 students, Harley 596, Boyd 644, Middle School 603, Glenn 666.

At the October 9 meeting we will have the Official Enrollment Review at which time strategies will be discussed. The projected enrollment is up 3%

The Board was thanked for writing a letter to Commissioner Mills regarding the Math A exam. Eighteen additional Glenn students have passed the rescaled Math A exam.

In addition, the Regent's Physics exam will also be discussed, since the statewide Physics scores have dropped.

Students who are required to do summer projects for AP courses must have instructors available for any assistance/instruction.

Glenn has three National Merit semifinalists: Perin Eldridge, Colin Taylor, and Carol Yoon. The students will be presented with a certificate at the November meeting.

The Board will be asked to waive the building use fee for the Harley PTA's clothing donation drive. Please note a change in the date from September 27 (Jewish Holiday) to October 25.

The Board will also vote on the tax levy for the school district.

The auditors will be at the next work session to discuss the fiscal health of the school district.

Mr. Carl Fraser, along with representatives from Baldassano Architectual, Marty DePasquale and Sullivan & Nickel Construction, Joe Chiarelli, gave the following construction update:

The cost (\$6,109) for additional steel needed to joist the roof was reviewed. The building was not up yet and the shop drawing picked up the need for additional steel. The district was not charged for additional trucking/shipping charge.

The following is what is left to do on the Capital Projects:

High School

Nov. 15 doors and hardware

Oct. 1 - expect boilers to be installed

Sept. 26 library expansion, carpeting and shelving, there is a slight problem with the circulation desk

Sept. 29 the library will be ready for use

Harley

boiler installation and doors

Boyd

Sept 22 restroom flooring completed

Site work at Middle & High School

Oct 1 top-coating of tennis and basketball courts

Oct 15 projected sod/seed (weather permitting)

The Board asked if the fields will be ready for the spring playing season?

Mr. Chiarelli responded that 6 cuts will be needed (weather permitting) and that the fields should be ready. The contractors are responsible for the sprinkler installation.

The Board noted that if we have another harsh winter the sod may not be ready for the spring season, and then the district will procure fields.

Mr. Chiarelli told the Board that the installation of the doors and hardware will be done at night at no charge to the District and a deduction credit will be applied.

In the aftermath of hurricane Isabel, the driveways will be swept by the contractor.

The Board commended Mr. Chiarelli and Mike Walsh for their extra efforts.

A lengthy discussion took place with Marty De Pasquale from the Baldasano Architectural firm re the August 28 Board meeting concerns of the athletic fields and Landscape Architect Kevin McAndrew's response. The Board questioned Mr. Mc Andrew's explanation the day after the Board meeting stating that according to the specs/ guidelines the soil has acceptable tolerance. The Board members responded that they have lost confidence and were frustrated by this situation, which has caused a 4-5 week delay in readying the athletic fields.

E. COMMENDATIONS – (deferred)

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 9:22 – 9:34 p.m.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board approve policy BDDDB to revise the Agenda format to include a separate second Resident's Remarks. The motion carried unanimously.

H. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(TAB H)

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended August 31, 2003.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS

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

<u>Resignations:</u>	<i>Patricia Collins</i>	<i>Regular Sub. Elementary Teacher</i>
	<i>Kerri Masci</i>	<i>Regular Sub. Elementary Teacher</i>
	<i>Susan Arundel</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
	<i>Mary Litwin</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
	<i>Vickie Trombetta</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<u>Appointments:</u>	<i>Patricia Collins</i>	<i>Probationary Elementary Teacher</i>
	<i>Kerri Masci</i>	<i>Probationary Elementary Teacher</i>
	<i>Susan Sullivan</i>	<i>Reading Teacher</i>
	<i>Donna Lynt</i>	<i>Speech Teacher</i>
	<i>Kathleen Kelner</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
	<i>Katherine McFadden</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
	<i>Angela Motyka</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>

Other:

- *Emergency appointments and reappointments*
- *Change in replacement designation for regular substitute teachers*
- *Increase in assignment for teachers*
- *Additional hours for paraprofessional at Harley Avenue School*
- *Changes to the fall coaching appointments*

The motion carried unanimously.

- 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:

<u>Submitted to the Board</u>	<u>Meeting Dates</u>
September 5, 2003	July 24, 2003

The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board adopt the Tax **(TAB J)** Warrant establishing the tax levy for the 2003-04 fiscal year in the amount of \$25,411,148.

The motion carried unanimously.

- d. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board adopt the **(TAB K)** Tax Warrant setting the tax levy for library services for the 2003-04 fiscal year in the amount of \$1,150,000.

The motion carried unanimously.

- e. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board designate Commerce Bank as depository for the respective accounts having a \$10 million limit (collateralized at 105% with third party bank J.P. Morgan Chase) and that Commerce Bank be authorized to recognize the signature of the officer as listed in the payment of funds or the transaction of business of said school district accounts effective September 19, 2003 through June 30, 2004:

<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>No. of and Authorized Signature(s)</u>
General Fund Money Market Account	1 District Treasurer
Cafeteria Fund Money Market Account	1 District Treasurer

EXCEPTION TO THE ABOVE: If any payment exceeds \$15,000, the check must be signed by the District Treasurer and **either** the Assistant Superintendent for Business **or** the Superintendent. Such checks will therefore have two (2) signatures.

The motion carried unanimously.

- f. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the addition of Angela Porzungolo as a parent member of the Committees on Special Education and Preschool Special Education for the 2003/04 school year.

The motion carried unanimously.

- g. Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the extension of the BOCES Fuel Oil Bid with Sprague Energy Corp. for the 2003-04 school year. **(TAB L)**
The motion carried unanimously.
- h. Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the extension of Transportation Contracts with Huntington Coach d/b/a Roy K. Davis Bus for the 2003-04 school year.
The motion carried unanimously.
- i. Recommendation withdrawn that the Board award the bid for parking lot paving/reconstruction at Boyd and Harley to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specification. **(TAB N)**
- j. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board waive the custodial/building use fees for the Harley Avenue and James Boyd PTAs for the use of the Harley Avenue School cafeteria on Saturday, October 25, for Community Donation Day. **(TAB O)**
The motion carried unanimously.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS -- (No Recommended Items)

Mr. Kaszubski announced October 4 is Homecoming and invited all to come and see the floats the students have made and to watch the bands perform along Elwood Road.

Mr. Cameron asked Mr. Fraser if the Board could have exactly what has been spent to date and what is left, as well as projections, for the Capital Projects Bond.
Mr. Fraser can give a quarterly report.

A discussion took place re establishing a Citizens Budget Advisory Committee:

Mrs. Annunziata complimented Mr. Ciccone's work session presentation, but questioned why Mr. Ciccone's request for a citizens budget committee was not an agenda item, and why all board members were not suitably informed?

Mr. Kaszubski asked the Board for future reference to contact Administration and all Board members to give advance notice of agenda items.

Mr. Ciccone responded that he distributed memos to the Board and his request was noted in Aug. 28 meeting and in his campaign literature.

Mrs. Annunziata responded that the needs of the community be researched first, and asked if the citizens advisory committee was the right vehicle?

Mr. Maina suggested sending out a notice in the Elwood Highlights and putting it on the District's web site, that a citizens budget advisory committee is forming and what the qualifications are and nominating petitions will be made available, etc.

Mr. Cameron likened it to the library committee search, and suggested a first reading of the policy in 30 days.

Mrs. Annunziata noted the problems the library committee had and did not want to give the appearance that the Board members are not doing what they were elected to do.

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve to establish a Citizens Budget Advisory Finance Committee.
The motion carried unanimously.

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

K. COMMUNICATIONS -- (No Recommended Items)

Mr. Ciccone said that a letter was sent from a parent regarding the confusion of early dismissal. Will the PTA contact the parents by phone chain?

Mr. Maina will address the early dismissal issue at the October meeting.

L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 10:50 –11:00 p.m.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (No Recommended Items)

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting at 11:04 p.m.
The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri
District Clerk