

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 13, 2003

Elwood Middle School

A. CALL TO ORDER – District Clerk 8:04 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 Resources

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 Q)

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the amended minutes (pg. 3, paragraph 4, line 5, add “to be a buffer” and pg. 4, paragraph 1, line 2, add “effective use of committees”) of the Regular Business Meeting of October 9, 2003 and the Special Business Meeting of October 23, 2003.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

At the last Board meeting questions were raised re safe schools policy development of 1999-2000. Project Save utilized the services of the Shared Decision Making Committee to develop the District’s Code of Conduct Policy.

The Board must appoint a district-wide safety committee which will be comprised of each building Principal, security staff, a Board Member, teacher, student, parent(s), and an outside health and safety consultant in order to be compliant with Chapter 155. The members will be announced in December.

Mr. Fraser will also review bus safety and discipline, natural disaster plans, and bomb threats.

Our faculty will receive additional instruction on group dynamics and how to deal with bullying.

Mr. Hogan will meet with Athletic Director, Mr. Tuorto, to discuss health and physical fitness issues.

Mrs. Delia Neitzel, the School Lunch Director, will meet with Mrs. McCabe, Site-Based members, and 2 PTA Presidents to discuss ways to better nutrition both in and out of school.

Mrs. Pat Matos was thanked, along with members of the Boyd safety committee, who came up with bus safety awareness programs instituted during last year’s construction projects.

The Board of Regents has announced it will rescore the Math A and the Physics Exams. The corrected scores will be recorded in the permanent records of 2002/2003. The Guidance Office will alert colleges to hold the grades in abeyance. The District wants to state definitively that the passing grade is 55 and we expect to receive the written pronouncement from the Regents in 2 weeks.

The Board was thanked for sending a letter to the Regents re Math A and Physics.

In an upcoming issue of the Elwood *Highlights* there will be a description of the new Regents regulations.

The Board of Regents School Funding Annual Recommendations for school aid for the school year 2004-05 was announced. The formulas are political and pit wealthy and poor districts against each other, while vying for state aid dollars. The saga is just beginning and will drag on into April and May. The District has already begun to lobby.

To follow up on the anti hazing policy, the Board will have a first reading of an expanded anti-hazing policy.

The Board will vote on appointing Mr. John Hogan as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum.

Dr. Patrick Perpignano was introduced as the interim Principal at the High School.

Mrs. Annunziata was recognized for her efforts in spearheading and helping to organize the Elwood Educational Foundation, otherwise known as the Elwood Educational Endowment (EEE). Mr. Keith McDermott is the President. The EEE will be comprised of 20 individuals.

Mr. Kaszubski did the legal work pro bono. Both Mr. Kaszubski and Mrs. Annunziata were thanked for a great job.

This Tuesday Elwood will be selling long- term bonds. The School District received an outstanding rating of Aa3. Only two school districts in the town of Huntington received such a rating, and Elwood was one of them. Mr. Fraser and our accountant, Mr. Andy Miller were thanked for their hard work. NYMAC was also thanked for its services.

E. COMMENDATIONS – Tonight we honored:

National Merit commended student James Park and National Merit semifinalists Perin Eldridge, Colin Taylor and Carol Yoon. Congratulations for your outstanding accomplishments.

Thank you to the 4 PTA Reflections Coordinators Joanne Taylor, Amy Sperin, Toni Spring and Nancy DeMeo for their hard work and dedication. The Reflections program had close to 500 entries from Elwood.

Congratulations to the Reflections Contest winners (listing attached).

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F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS 8:46 p.m. – 9:12 p.m.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- (None)

H. FINANCIAL MATTERS (TAB R)

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer's Report for the month ended September 30, 2003.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended October 31, 2003.
3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Extraclassroom Fund Reports (High School and Middle School) for the quarter ended September 30, 2003.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS

a. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve **(TAB S)** personnel items.

Resignations: Kathleen Corrao Elementary Teacher

John Hogan High School Principal

Melissa Sheahan Reg. Sub. Elementary Teacher

Kathleen Kelner Part-time Paraprofessional

The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board appoint

Mr. John Hogan Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum/Standards.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve

Appointments:

Bianca Adamo Reg. Sub. Elementary Teacher
Eric Neithardt Social Worker
Melissa Sheahan Probationary Elementary Teacher
Deborah Brandsema Paraprofessional
Maureen Cavanagh School Nurse
Lisa Fassberger Food Service Worker
Theresa Sorrentino Paraprofessional

Other:

- Emergency appointments and reappointments
- Change in assignment for paraprofessional
- Schedule of Co-Curricular appointments for Middle School musical
- Musical director at high school
- Academic tutors at high school
- Memo of agreement with Elwood Cafeteria Staff Association
- Schedule of winter interscholastic coaching assignments
- Addendum to schedule of substitute teachers/nurses

The motion carried unanimously.

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b. Mr. Cameron moved and Mrs. Annunziata 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

October 17, 2003 September 10, 17 and October 1

October 31, 2003 October 8 and 22

The motion carried unanimously.

c. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mrs. Annunziata 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

October 17, 2003 October 9

October 31, 2003 October 23

The motion carried unanimously.

d. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board establish a reserve fund for Accrued Liabilities and Employee Benefits in accord with the recommendation of the District's independent auditor and that all funds for such liabilities be transferred concurrently.

The motion carried unanimously.

e. Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve a **(TAB T)** change order in the credit amount of \$19,909.37 for work being performed at James H. Boyd Intermediate School by Ferran Development Corporation.

The motion carried unanimously.

f. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the **(TAB U)** December edition of *Elwood Education Highlights*.

The motion carried unanimously.

g. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board accept the donation of two computers from Mr. Pietzak and a scanner from Ms. Krueger.

The motion carried unanimously.

h. The Board had a first reading of the proposed anti hazing policy JICFA. **(TAB V)** Florence Frazer of Ehrlich, Frazer & Feldman was present to answer questions from the Board members and to comment on the District's expanded anti hazing policy.

Ms. Florence Frazer will report back to the Board at the next meeting (December 11) to review possible changes made to the anti hazing policy.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. At-large voting for school board members

- b. Increasing the number of school board members
- c. Capping election expenditures for board candidates
- d. Addition of student member to the Board

Counsel Frazer commented on Discussions Items a – d.

Item c, there is no cap to campaign expenditures. However, a gentlemen's agreement can be reached.

Any change to items a,b and d must be included in all legal proposition notices.

A special district election must be held 30-60 days following the election should the proposition be adopted.

Ms. Frazer will research how to clearly state any new proposition, how many signatures will be required, etc. She also noted that each system has its flaws.

Re item d.- a student would have to be on the ballot with the caveat that the student would not have a Board vote and would not be permitted into Executive Session. In addition, if the student representative misbehaves, there would be no method for the Board or for Commissioner Mills to remove the student.

Before Ms. Frazer left her parting advice was "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

A lengthy discussion ensued re a, b, and d:

How will adding an additional 2 members affect the dynamics of the Board?

Does the District need more representation?

Is the community growing to warrant a 2 member increase?

In the last 10 years how many Board members ran unopposed?

How will 2 new members benefit the Board and will it be unmanageable?

Will 7 members make the Board meetings even lengthier?

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

There was a discussion to put more items on the agenda.

Can the Discussion Items be moved to another place on the agenda?

This can be done, Mr. Maina responded, but the by-laws would need to be changed to do so.

Mr. Kaszubski requested Board members contact him in advance of a Board meeting if they wanted a certain item placed on the agenda.

The Board reiterated the role of the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, in that the committee members will not usurp the Board or the Administration. It is a collaborative effort. The committee will disband once the budget is adopted by the Board.

Mr. Fusaro announced that both the Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams made the playoffs.

Mr. Fusaro congratulated the boys' varsity football team for defeating the unbeaten team from Bayport. The Knights will meet Bayport again on Saturday for a playoff spot. Good Luck!

The Girls' Varsity Volleyball team has won the third consecutive Long Island Championship.

They are in Cortland and take on their nemesis Eden, for the championship.

Congratulations to Coach Kevin Harrington and Assistant Coach Janet Simonsen.

Good Luck Girls!

K. COMMUNICATIONS (TAB W)

1. Letter from PTA to thank Board for waiving building use fee for Community Day.
2. Letters to National Merit semifinalists and commendeo.

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L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 11:00 - 11:39 p.m.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board go into Executive Session

at 11:42 p.m. to discuss the acquisition of real property.

The motion carried unanimously.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Cameron seconded to end executive session and adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 12:40 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri

District Clerk