

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 11, 2003

Elwood Middle School

A. CALL TO ORDER – District Clerk 8:05 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

John Hogan 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 S)

Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the regular Business Meeting of November 13, 2003.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

The High School String Ensemble will perform at tonight's meeting.

The High School Girls' Volleyball team had a splendid season and will be honored tonight. Congratulations!

The Board will set aside the normal policy and move the Discussion Items to an earlier spot on the agenda.

A final reading of our anti-hazing policy will take place as soon as our counsel arrives.

The Board will vote to approve a contract with the Elwood Teachers Alliance for another three years.

The Board will also vote tonight on Local/Regents Diploma options as permitted by recent Board of Regents changes to regulations.

On December 16, Newsday will interview Harley Avenue 2nd grade teacher Amy Schombs.

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On December 18th second graders from Harley Avenue School will give a musical performance for nursing home residents. These activities show how Elwood expands the boundaries of community.

The community was wished a Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Mrs. Karen Gellert conducted the High School String Ensemble. They performed holiday medleys.

High School senior, Matthew DePace has formed a foundation called Hope for a Cure.

To date, Matthew has raised \$9,000 to benefit Parkinson's disease research. He will hold his Third Annual Hope for a Cure fundraiser on Saturday, December 12th at Rockrose & Greenvale Roads, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy hot chocolate and gather around a bonfire with many Elwood families.

E. COMMENDATIONS –

Tonight we honor the High School Girls' Volleyball Team, winners of the New York State Class C Championships. The team's record was 27-0!

Certificates were presented to Coach Kevin Harrington, and Assistant Coach Janet Simonsen.

The team members were individually congratulated and also presented certificates: Kathleen Bute, Harmonie Calinda, Christy Callaghan, Alexandra Cangero, Victoria Cangero,

Jessica Cettina, Jessica Dauenhauer, Kelly Feehan, Emily Feldman, Katherine Gosman, Ifechi Momah, Heather Nielsen and Justine Palacios.

The team was also named a Scholar/Athlete Team by NYSPHSAA. Harmonie Calinda, Heather Nielsen and Justine Palacios were also recently inducted into the High School National Honor Society.

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 8:45 - 9:08 p.m.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Items to this section of the agenda for tonight's meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

Counsel Florence Frazer of Ehrlich, Frazer & Feldman was present to answer the Board's questions and to comment on the following:

1. At-large voting for school board members
2. Increasing the number of school board members
3. Capping election expenditures for board candidates
4. Addition of student member to the Board
5. Citizens Finance/Budget Advisory Committee

Elwood's student population to board member ratio was discussed.

Ms. Frazer's response to item #4:

The law does require the student member to be the student president of the High School. However, the Board may set up an informal student representative and may rotate a senior and junior representative, thus allowing a greater student voice and a degree of flexibility if the Board so desires.

Ms. Frazer's response to item # 3:

Legally, you cannot put a cap on election expenditures. You may ask for a gentlemen's agreement not to exceed a certain amount, but it is solely up to the individual.

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Any decision made by the Board on these aforementioned items would be written up in the Elwood Highlights.

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the following 23 residents who applied for the Citizens Finance/Budget Advisory Committee:

Neil W. Akeson, Jr., Julia M. Badlato, Artie Banks, Scott Besendorfer, Jerry DeMeo, Dr. William Eckstein, Gerard J. Fenter, Sean Flanagan, Alan B. Groveman, Gerard K. Hannon, Michael F. Kalinowski, Ro Keegan, Dr. Howard Koenig, John LoPipero, Karen Massa, Patricia A. Matos, Jonathan Meyers, Walter Rabe, Patrick A. Scarola, Jack Sivilli, Ronald Steinlauf, Laura Williams and Michael Zirpolo.

The motion carried unanimously.

* A letter will go out to all the new members. A meeting date with Mr. Fraser will be set, along with procedural guidelines establishing a structure and charges.

The Aa3 bond rating the District received saved the Elwood taxpayers an estimated amount of \$150,000.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A discussion ensued re wording of "may" versus "shall" in the District's hazing policy. Counsel Frazer responded that the word "may" gives the Board more latitude and also allows the Board to implement regulation.

The Board thanked counsel Frazer for her attendance at the November meeting and tonight's meeting.

The Board also acknowledged that it is a constant struggle to know if they have done enough and if they have taken every precaution to minimize the risks to our students. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve proposed **(TAB T)**

Anti-Hazing Policy JICFA.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. FINANCIAL MATTERS (TAB U)

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer's Report for the month ended October 31, 2003.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended November 30, 2003.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve **(TAB V)** Personnel items

Resignations: Jeanne Laufer Part-time Paraprofessional

Appointments: Daryle Eisner Part-time Food Service Worker

Jeanne Laufer Full-time Paraprofessional

Other:

-- *Emergency appointments and reappointments*

-- *Memo of agreement with Elwood Teachers Association*

-- *Staff for Academic Intervention Services*

-- *Stipend for Treasurer*

-- *Musical Sets Construction Advisor*

-- *Addendum to Schedule of Substitute Teachers/Nurses*

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- b. **and** 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

November 21, 2003 October 29, 30, November 5, 10

- c. **and** 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

November 21, 2003 November 6

November 26, 2003 November 20

- d. **and** that the Board appoint members to the District-wide School **(TAB W)** Safety Team for the 2003/2004 school year.

- e. **and** that the Board extend the local diploma option for current high school and eighth grade students that allows a passing score of 55-64 on the five required Regents exams, and to extend the safety net for students with disabilities entering Grade 9 prior to the 2010/2011 school years.

- f. **and** that the Board approve change orders for work being performed **(TAB X)** at James Boyd Intermediate School:

1. Pirraglia Contracting in the **credit** amount of \$40,053.00

2. Ferran Development in the **credit** amount of \$22,052.79

3. Ruttura & Sons Construction Company in the **debit** amount of \$48,895.00

The motion carried unanimously.

K. ITEMS NOT LIST ON AGENDA

Mr. Kaszubski thanked Ms. Stephens, Mr. Friend, and members of the Elwood Teachers Alliance for approving the second contract in a row without the involvement of an attorney. Mr. Maina said he hopes to have 86-93% of our seniors graduating with a

Regents Diploma, with the remaining students receiving a Local Diploma. He wants every student to be given every opportunity to graduate.

Mr. Maina has requested that Mr. Hogan, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, give an update report on curriculum.

L. COMMUNICATIONS -- (No Recommended Items)

M. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 10:23 – 10:31 p.m.

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION -- (No Recommended Items)

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri

District Clerk