

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elwood, New York

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION

**January 9, 2003
Elwood Middle School**

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- A. CALL TO ORDER** – District Clerk - 8:03 p.m.
Present John Santomauro President
 Michael Kaszubski Vice President
 Dina Annunziata Member
 Bill Cameron Member
 Brian Madden Member
Staff Michael A. Maina Superintendent
 Carl Fraser Assistant Superintendent/Business
 Robert Annucci Assistant Superintendent/Personnel
 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)

Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of December 12, 2002. The motion carried unanimously.

- D. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS** – Michael A. Maina
Welcomed those present and wished the entire community a Happy New Year.

Regarding the State Budget: The Governor's "State of the State" address didn't reveal any specifics concerning school aid for '03-'04. Mr. Pataki did indicate that his detailed 2003-2004 budget proposal will be presented on Jan. 29. He stated that, "We will spend less money than last year and with the exception of public security, no segment of the budget will be exempt." The Administration will look closely at the impact of the Governor's proposal.

As announced at the December meeting, Elwood was awarded a New York State Education Grant to institute a program in grades K-5 for the Prevention of Child Abduction. Special training for all teachers and auxiliary personnel commenced yesterday. To raise awareness for our parents, we have scheduled an evening workshop on Wednesday, January 22, at 8:00 p.m. in the Harley Avenue cafeteria. All members of the community are also invited to attend.

Tonight's Agenda has been revised:

Only a portion of the transportation bid will be awarded.

Discussion -- Item "A" -- the award of bids for renovation and reconstruction of athletic fields will be moved to tonight's Superintendent's Report.

New Business -- Item "G" - "Property Tax Exemptions for Certain Individuals".

The resolution changes to income levels are "routine".

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There has also been a change to the Real Property Tax Law (New Section 466-C) which now permits towns, counties and school districts the option to exempt a small amount of taxes paid by volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. The Board will seek comments on this matter at the next meeting and vote accordingly.

The Enrollment Report from Western Suffolk BOCES will arrive by the week of Jan. 18. A tentative work session may be held on Jan. 23 to review enrollment projections.

Discussion Item "A":

Award of bid for renovation and reconstruction of athletic fields and site work:

The athletic fields of the Middle School and High School were discussed at the Jan. 3 work session. To seed or to sod the fields is the question before the Board. If we seed, we will need two growing seasons. If we sod, we can use the fields in the fall. Sodding is more costly. However, if we seed we will need to pay transportation cost to bus the athletes to off-site facilities.

Lighting of the tennis courts was addressed. However, we must be concerned with the residents who live in the area surrounding the courts, as well as security and liability issues.

Further discussion of additional materials submitted by Sullivan & Nickel, Baldassano Group, and Cameron Engineering and their representatives was held. Work is slated to begin over the Feb. break.

E. COMMENDATIONS - none

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS -- 8:44 – 9:01 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 November 30, 2002.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended December 31, 2002.
3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Budget Status Report for the period ended December 31, 2002.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS

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

(TAB C)

<u>Resignation:</u>	<i>Annette Turano</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<u>Appointment:</u>	<i>Nancy Ryan</i>	<i>Part-time Clerk Typist (17.5 hrs/week)</i>

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS – *cont'd.*

Other:

- *Emergency Appointments and Reappointments*
- *Reduction in hours for paraprofessional Melinda Abriss to 1 hr. per day*
- *Addendum to Schedule of Approved Substitute Teachers/Nurses*

The motion carried unanimously

b. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board approve **(TAB D)** the Committee on Special Education’s recommendations for students’ classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services dated: *November 21; December 4; December 10; December 11; December 12.*
The motion carried unanimously.

c. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Madden seconded that the Board approve **(TAB E)** the Committee on Preschool Special Education’s recommendations for students’ classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services dated: *December 4.*
The motion carried unanimously.

d. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board approve the addition of Carol Ann Skawinski as a parent member of the Committees on Special Education and Preschool Special Education for the 2002/03 school year.
The motion carried unanimously.

e. Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board accept **(TAB F)** the revised transportation bid.
The motion carried unanimously.

f. Mr. Cameron moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the following health service contracts for students attending private/parochial schools:

Syosset CSD	3 students	\$ 1,650.51
Brentwood UFSD	1 student	380.56
Farmingdale UFSD (2001/02)	1 student	503.02

The motion carried unanimously.

g. Mr. Cameron moved and Mr. Santomauro seconded that the Board approve **(TAB G)** the attached resolution to increase income limits to qualify Seniors with Limited Incomes and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes for property tax exemptions.
The motion carried unanimously.

h. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board **(TAB H)** approve an updated District Professional Performance Review Plan in accord with State regulations.
The motion carried unanimously.

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- i. Mr. Santomauro moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board approve (TAB I) the attached resolution urging the New York State Legislature to amend the Wicks Law.
The motion carried unanimously.
- j. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Madden seconded that the Board award the Site Work and Athletic Field Bids to Ruttura & Sons at this evening's meeting as detailed in the attached letter dated December 19, 2002 from Sullivan & Nickel in the amount of \$3,459,339.
The motion carried unanimously.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Award of bid for renovation and reconstruction of athletic fields and site work.

*** Located on page 2 - Report From The Superintendent - Mr. Maina

The Board suggested mentioning the Limited Income property tax exemptions in the Elwood *Highlights*, and in addition will publish the Elwood District Library Meetings (which are held in the Middle School Library) in the Elwood *Highlights*.

The Board thanked Mr. Joseph Fusaro for his assistance and expertise in going over the site work bids.

The proposed tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers will be advertised in the local papers. The Board will seek comments on this matter at the next meeting and vote accordingly.

The Board requested a letter from insurers re open campus liability. The District is covered. The Board also discussed over use of the fields and tennis courts by residents.

How many students use the early band bus at the Middle School? Mr. Scarola will gather the information and report to the Board.

The budget process for how we determine class size and training costs versus higher or lower class size will be addressed at a later meeting.

Mr. Hogan was asked to look into grade 11 Math scores and the history of student averages.

The Board commented on how productive the Jan. 3rd work session was and hoped to schedule additional work sessions in the near future.

The Board will keep abreast of any DeLea property developments.

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J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

K. COMMUNICATIONS -- (No Recommended Items)

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION – no

M. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cameron moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board adjourn at 9:40 p.m.
The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri
District Clerk