ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2024

A. CALL TO ORDER - 6:03 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment history of a particular certificated person at 6:03 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present at Executive Session were: James Tomeo, Deborah Weiss, Walter Edwards, Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Dr. Gayle Steele, Lorraine Dunkel, Dr. Sonia Hood and Eileen Kelly-Gorman.

2. Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

C. <u>RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION</u> – 7:38 p.m.

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:38 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present: James Tomeo President

Deborah Weiss Vice President

Walter Edwards Member Dr. Sara Siddiqui Member

Absent: Thomas Scarola Member

Staff: Dr. Gayle Steele Superintendent of Schools

Lorraine Dunkel Assistant Superintendent/Business
Dr. Sonia Hood Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum

Eileen Kelly Gorman Assistant Superintendent/Special Education

Mary Lou Marx District Clerk

Absent: None

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Board President

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. September 12, 2024 Regular Business Meeting

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of September 12, 2024.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

F. COMMENDATIONS

1. We honored the following for their community service and volunteerism:

American Legion Boys and Girls State:

Nolan Reinhardt, Caroline Weiss, Ellie Crowley, Nicola Palisciano

All-State: Melina Neofitos - Chorus

All-State Alternates: Nolan Reinhardt - Chorus, Louise Hartough - Orchestra

2. School Board Recognition Week: October 14-18, 2024

G. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT - Caroline Weiss, Student Liaison to the Board

H. <u>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</u> – Dr. Gayle Steele

I. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING THE AGENDA

The Board encourages all residents to attend its meetings, and this section of the agenda affords them the opportunity to speak. Persons wishing to speak should identify themselves, state whether they are a resident of the Elwood School District and any organization they represent at the meeting. Comments related to district business or any agenda item should be kept as brief as possible and may not exceed three minutes (Board Policy 1230). Questions or comments concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and may be discontinued by the President. Public discussion of matters relating to staff, students, or others at which their reputations, privacy or right to due process could be in some way be violated, is prohibited.

J. PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Annual Audit Report & Fund Balance Update Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent of Business
- 2. Smart School Investment Plan Overview Christopher Onorato, Director of Instructional and Information Technology
- 3. Academic Updates Dr. Sonia Hood, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Corey McNamara, JGHS Principal

K. BOARD RECOGNITION OF DONATIONS

- 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the following donations with gratitude:
 - 1) \$3,000 from the Elwood Booster Club for the purpose of supporting and expanding the Unified Sports/Blooming Buddies program.
 - 2) New Singlets for the JGHS Wrestling Team, from community supporters of JGHS Wrestling (Agapi Bell, Tom Aiello, Anthony Lee) with a value of \$590.00.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approved Item K.1, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

L. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items M.1-M.2, N.1-N.28, O.1-O.12, P.1-P.2, Q.1), as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

M. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt for audit of the following reports:
 - a) Treasurer's Report for June, 2024
 - b) Revenue Status Report through June 30, 2024
 - c) Cash Flow Report for June, 2024
 - d) Budget Status Report through June 30, 2024
 - e) Trial Balance Report through June 30, 2024
 - f) Executive Summary for June, 2024
 - g) Budget Transfer Report for June, 2024
 - h) School Lunch Fund Report through June 30, 2024
 - i) ExtraClassroom Activity Fund Reports for JGHS & EMS through June, 2024
 - j) Claims Auditor Report, August 2024
- 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the budget transfers as presented to the Board at this meeting.

N. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL

- 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Karen Wenda for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a School Nurse, effective February 14, 2025.
- 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Linda Scotto for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.
- 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Zakiya Celestine, from her position as a Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective October 11, 2024.
- **4.** BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Julia Murphy, from her position as a Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective September 27, 2024.
- 5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Karen Casey, from her position as a Teaching Assistant, effective October 4, 2024.
- 6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Victoria Feder, from her position as a Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective September 27, 2024.
- 7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Jessica Roer, from her position as a Teaching Assistant, effective September 13, 2024.

- **8.** BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Lauren Manzi, from her position as a AIS ENL Tutor, effective September 10, 2024.
- 9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Jason Winters for the purpose of retirement, from his position as a Network and Systems Specialist I, effective April 24, 2025.
- 10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints William Powers as a Maintenance Mechanic III, in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twelve-month probationary term commencing November 4, 2024, at a rate of \$67,373 prorated, for the 2024-2025 school year.
- BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Sloane Cogliati, who holds Students with Disabilities 1-6, and Childhood Education 1-6 Certificates, to a four-year probationary term as a Teaching Assistant, commencing on October 21, 2024 and terminating on October 20, 2028 in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant with compensation of \$26,232, (prorated, Step 1).
- 12. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as an AIS Tutor at Elwood-John H. Glenn High School, to serve at the pleasure of the Board for the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$41.67 per class period, effective October 21, 2024:

 Caterina Rovito AIS ENL
- 13. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Brian Cullen as a Groundskeeper I, in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to continue serving the remainder of his twelve-month probationary term ending on February 9, 2025, with compensation of \$53,800, prorated, for the 2024-2025 school year, effective October 18, 2024.
- 14. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following mentor for the 2024-2025 school year:

Mentor	Period	Compensation
Diane Locascio	1 Semester	\$500

- 15. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as Harley after-school advisors to the corresponding clubs as presented:
 - 1-Leslie Seilback to Harley Sweets & Treats (5 Sessions, October through November, 2024) \$400
 - 2-Cheri Murcott to Harley Sweets & Treats (5 Sessions, October through November, 2024) \$400
 - 3-Cheri Murcott to Harley Coding Club (5 Sessions, October through November, 2024) \$400
 - 4-Nicole Franz to Harley Art (10 Sessions, October through November, 2024) \$800

16. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as advisors to the corresponding weekly after-school clubs, for the 2024-2025 school year, with compensation as listed:

Name of Advisors	Club	School	Dates	Rate
Jessica Shay	Blooming Buddies Program	Harley	November 12, 2024 - January 14, 2025	\$1,148.00
Kevin Lavey	Blooming Buddies Program	Harley	November 12, 2024 - January 14, 2025	\$1,148.00
William Cordts	Blooming Buddies Program	Boyd	December 21, 2024 - March 17, 2025	\$1,148.00
Lauren Levine	Blooming Buddies Program	Boyd	February 3, 2025 - June 23, 2025	\$1,148.00
Beth Theodorellis	Blooming Buddies Program	Boyd	October 21, 2024 - May 5, 2025	\$1,148.00
Mary Trimble	Blooming Buddies Program	Boyd	October 21, 2024 - June 23, 2025	\$1,148.00

- 17. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Kelly Hughes, who possesses a Mathematics 7-12 Certificate, to a leave replacement substitute position for the duration of the leave of Employee #2873, as a Mathematics Teacher, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective October 7, 2024, at a per diem rate of \$150.00 per day worked.
- 18. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following James H. Boyd Intermediate School Advisors to the corresponding clubs/activities for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Advisor	Activity	Stipend
Jesse Marroquin	Student Council Advisor	\$2,108.00
Joanna Capitelli	Boyd Musical Director	\$1,985.00
Joanna Capitelli	Boyd Musical Choreographer	\$1,985.00
Julian Gordon	Boyd Musical Producer	\$1,985.00
Julian Gordon	Boyd Musical Director	\$1,985.00
Chris Warren	Boyd Musical Sets and Art Advisor	\$2,448.00

- 19. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following John H. Glenn High School and Elwood Middle School Advisors to the corresponding clubs/activities for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
- 20. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby appoints the following coaches and Equipment Managers for the winter season of the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
- 21. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as a volunteer coach, for the 2024-2025 school year:

 Robert Tafflock Varsity Football Coach (pending issuance of Temporary Coaching License)
- 22. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the adjustment of hours for the following paraprofessionals, effective October 18, 2024 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, with compensation at their 2024-2025 hourly rates:

		Name	Previous Hours/Day	New Hours/Day	
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Gina Antoniak	5.0 Hours	5.75 Hours
Rose Capalbo	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours
Norma Corrao	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours
Joshua Fenner	4.0 Hours	5.0 Hours
Melissa Ford	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours
Karen Kember	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours

23. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves after-school hours for the following certificated staff members, with compensation of \$66 per hour:

Purpose	Hours	Staff Member
Career Exploration Curriculum Writing	up to 5 Hours	Ilene Fucci
Parent University Workshop Sessions	up to 3 Hours	Nicole Gendjoian Domenica Piccoli Christine Shay Diane Locascio Lisa Sallie Sarah Daly Allen Epstein Caylie Gaccione Ann Gill Elle Chan Christiana Dobra Marsha McLeod Renee Spanos

24. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the 2024 summer days/hours for the following employees, listed below, which were previously approved on June 13, 2024, with compensation as per their collective bargaining agreements:

1				
Name	School	Position	Previous 2024 Summer Days/Hours Approved on June 13, 2024	Updated 2024 Summer Days/Hours
April Giardina	Boyd	Nurse	up to 10 days	up to 9 days
Elizabeth Schwartz	Harley	Nurse	up to 15 days	up to 16 days
Elle Chan	EMS	ENL Teacher	up to 10 hours	up to 11 hours

25. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends for following 2024 appointments in recognition of the additional approved credits they have completed:

Name	Appointment Position	Appointment Date	Appointment Salary	Additional Credits Approved	Updated Salary	Effective Date
Samantha Abruscati	Mathematics Teacher	April 11 7074	\$68,452 (MA Step 2)	15 Credits	\$71,710 (MA+15 Step 2)	September 1, 2024
Gianna Tufano	Mathematics/Computer Science Teacher	June 13, 2024	\$66,237 (MA Step 1)	115 Credits	\$69,795 (MA+15 Step 1)	September 3, 2024
Alexandria Simone	School Psychologist	Δ monet $\partial \mathbf{q} = \partial \Omega / \partial \Omega$	\$73,017 (MA+30 Step 1)	115 Credite	\$76,585 (MA+45 Step 1)	September 3, 2024

26. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the amendment of the probationary terms for the following employees as per the tenure laws in New York State:

Name	Position	Appointed Probationary Period	Amended Probationary Period

Marley Herbert (Carhart)	Elementary Teacher	September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2026	September 1, 2022 - September 21, 2026
Sara Dis	Teaching Assistant	September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2026	September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2027

27. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as a Permanent Substitute, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, at a rate of \$150.00 per day worked, effective November 4, 2024 through June 6, 2025:

Name	Initial School Assignment
Annemarie Crisci	Harley Avenue Primary School

28. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the additional Substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

O. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

- 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and based on the recommendations of the Audit Committee, the Board of Education hereby accepts the internal auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 as performed and prepared by RS Abrams & Co., LLP, Certified Public Accountants, and presented to the Board at this meeting.
- 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and based on the recommendations of the Audit Committee, the Board of Education hereby accepts the annual financial statements and external auditor's reports as presented to the Board at this meeting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 as performed and prepared by Nawrocki Smith, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, for submission to the New York State Education Department.
- 3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Town of Huntington 2024-2025 tax levy in the amount of \$53,142,763 and that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board of Education.
- 4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract with Donna Gorelick and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing accompanist services to the District, for the 2024-2025 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
- 5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract with Daniel Maimone and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing accompanist services to the District, for the 2024-2025 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
- 6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract with Valerie Goldstein and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for

- providing professional development services to the District, for the 2024-2025 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
- 7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract with Donna McPartlan and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing CPR and first aid training services to the District, for the 2024-2025 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
- 8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Contract with the Huntington Union Free School District and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing special education services to parentally placed students with disabilities who attend private school within the Huntington Union Free School District, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 inclusive, and said contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
- 9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board President is hereby authorized to sign and execute an Agreement with Cornerstone Technologies, Inc. and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for their services with the surplus and no-longer-in-service technology equipment, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
- 10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute an Agreement with Suffolk Y JCC and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing pre-kindergarten program services to the District, effective September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
- 11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby declares the following items as surplus and obsolete as they are beyond repair or outdated and allow for their appropriate removal:
 - 1) EMS Obsolete Textbooks (Weather & Climate, Astronomy, Chemical Interactions, Inside Earth)
 - 2) EMS Gray Lathe
 - 3) District Office Technology items
 - 4) EMS Life Science Texts
 - 5) EMS Physical Science Texts
 - 6) EMS Exploring Life Science Texts
- 12. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute the Special Education Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting (SEDCAR) Agreements for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting, and said Agreements will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting:

All About Kids Alternatives for Children Brookville Center Building Blocks Kids First Evaluation and Advocacy Center, Inc. Related Services Only Kids First Evaluation and Advocacy Center, Inc.

Martin De Porres School

Metro Therapy

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk

13. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute an Agreement with Northwell Health, Inc. and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing clinical education and training services at Northwell facilities to the District, effective September 1, 2024, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approved Item O.13, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

P. <u>ACTION ITEMS - OTHER</u>

- 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following individuals, as presented, to provide Intensive Behavioral Intervention Services for the 2024-2025 school year, as mandated by the Committee on Special Education (CSE), with compensation of \$66 per hour: Alexandria Simone Moira Citko
- 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Committee and Subcommittee on Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 8/7/24, 9/12/24, 9/16/24, 9/18/24, 9/24/24, 9/25/24, 9/26/24, 9/27/24, 9/30/24, 10/1/24 and 10/2/24 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 8/15/24, 9/9/24, 9/19/24 and 9/25/24 for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes and appropriates the use of District funds necessary to implement the special education programs and services consistent with said recommendations.

Q. <u>POLICIES</u>

1. WHEREAS, it is the customary practice of the Board of Education to have two readings of a policy prior to its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to adopt two policies recommended by the Policy Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, to wit, Drug-Free Workplace and Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace, on an expedited basis so that said policies will be effective immediately;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby waives the Board's customary practice of two readings prior the adoption of a policy, and adopts the following policies as presented to the Board at this meeting, which will be incorporated by reference in the minutes of this meeting:

9320 Drug-Free Workplace 9520.6 Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

- 2. Draft Policies Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee and Submitted for a First Reading:
 - 4526.1 Internet Safety
 - 4526.1-R Internet Safety Regulation
 - 8635-E Parent Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to move the draft policies, Item Q.2, to November 21, 2024 for consideration of adoption, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

R. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT

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S. <u>PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>– 9:44 p.m.

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene into Executive Session for the purpose of discussions related to a pupil personnel matter made confidential under FERPA at 9:44 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

T. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 10:59 p.m.

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene into Open Session at 10:59 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

U. ADJOURNMENT - 11:00 p.m.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx District Clerk