

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
December 12, 2024

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**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: 5-yes, 0-no.

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

2. Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:19 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:33 p.m.**

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood-John H. Glenn High School Auditorium at 7:33 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Present: James Tomeo	President
Deborah Weiss	Vice President
Walter Edwards	Member
Thomas Scarola	Member
Dr. Sara Siddiqui	Member

Absent: None

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. November 21, 2024 Regular Business Meeting  
Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Business Meeting of November 21, 2024.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**F. COMMENDATIONS**

We honored the following for their community service, volunteerism and high standard:

1. 2025 Valedictorian, National Merit Commended Student, News 12 Scholar Athlete - Davin Li
2. Girls' Cross Country undefeated League and Conference Champions, County Finalists, Most Improved Class B Team of the Year - Katelynn Fratarcangeli, Sloane Hinke, Ava Hopkins, Madelyn Moreno, Grace Murphy, Piatrina Olivo-Rivera, Emma Peranio, Riley Perinchief, Reema Singh, Camryn Szokoli
3. Varsity Boys Soccer Team League Champions, Suffolk County Class A Champions, Long Island Class A Finalist - Matthew Ribaric, Tyler Ziminski, Jake Piacentini, Jack Ziminski, Dylan Greenwood, Cristian Alfaro, Robert Rhatigan, Cooper Kassin, Patrick Heaney, Peter Bell, Eli Tyll, Jesse Columbo, James D'Angeli, Samuel Voegel, James Mossey, Jair Tala, Davin Li, Isaac Perez, Anderson Hinke, Eduardo Yupac Marquina, Parker Dimina, David Taylor, Ethan Alkelai, Abdul Haroon Tokhi
4. 2024 Boys Varsity Golf Team member 1st Place overall and All Conference - Gavin Fazal
5. New York State Master Teachers - Matthew McGuire and Sima Lis

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

**H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele**

**I. DISCUSSION ITEM –Regionalization**

After public discussion regarding the regionalization plan, the majority of the Board has determined that the Elwood Union Free School District will not participate in the development of a regionalization plan. Dr. Steele, Superintendent of Schools, will provide written notification of their determination not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan to Mr. David Frank, New York State Department’s Office of Education Policy prior to January 15, 2025.

**J. 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.

**K. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Budget Workshop #1 - Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent of Business

**L. 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) A bench donated by the Harley Primary School Aftercare Program to be placed in the Harley Avenue Primary School Kindergarten playground to honor Vincent Corapi who was a

cherished member of our school community, with a total value of \$655.

2) \$500 from the Harley Avenue PTA to support the STEAM Fair for K-8 students.

3) \$500 from the Elwood Middle School PTA to support the STEAM Fair for K-8 students.

Mr. Edwards moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approved Item L.1, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**M. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items N.1, O.1-O.10, P.1-P.7, Q.1-Q.2), as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**N. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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 October, 2024
- b) Revenue Status Report through October, 2024
- c) Cash Flow Report for September & October, 2024
- d) Budget Status Report through October, 2024
- e) Trial Balance Report through October, 2024
- f) Executive Summary for October, 2024
- g) Budget Transfer Report through October 31, 2024
- h) School Lunch Fund Report through October 31, 2024

**O. 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 Dylan Steger, from his position as a Maintenance Mechanic III, effective November 29, 2024.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Serenna Yanofsky, from her position as an AIS Mathematics teacher, effective December 20, 2024.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Rawya Elmenayer, from her position as a Paraprofessional, effective December 20, 2024.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Theresa Williamson, from her position as a Teaching Assistant, effective January 2, 2025.

5. 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
Parent University Workshop	Up to 3 Hours per teacher	Nicole Correia Meagan Dolan

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the additional provider, as listed, 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:  
Scott Simpson

7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves after-school hours for the following teachers, for the purpose of teaching Math and English SAT Prep Courses at John H. Glenn High School, effective January 1, 2025 through June 14, 2025, with compensation of \$66 per hour and funded through the Title I Grant:  
Joseph Pushee (Mathematics) not to exceed 42 hours  
Cassandra Pitocchi (English) not to exceed 24 hours

8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the amended hours for the following Paraprofessional, with compensation at her 2024-2025 hourly rate:

Name	Previous Hours/Day	New Hours/Day	Effective Date
Karen Rinaldi	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours	December 13, 2024

9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the following previously approved co-curricular appointments, for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Club	Building	Previously Appointed Advisor(s)	Previous Appointment Date	New Appointment
Instagram Club	JGHS	Brittany Chalmers	October 17, 2024	Rescind appointment-will not run
Musical Assistant Director	JGHS	John Rottkamp	October 17, 2024	Rescind appointment
Science Research	JGHS	Richard Greening	October 17, 2024	Rescind appointment-will not run
Yearbook Photographer	JGHS	Allen Epstein	October 17, 2024	Resigned effective 12/13/2024 with compensation prorated to \$871.60

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

**P. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS**

1. 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 Eden II School for Autistic Children, Inc., dba Eden II/Genesis Programs and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing instruction to handicapped students, as presented to the Board at this meeting, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board of Education President to sign and execute an Agreement with the Smithtown Central School District to provide special education services for student(s) who reside in the Elwood Union Free School District, at the most current special education non-resident tuition rates as approved by New York State,

effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 inclusive, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

3. 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) Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting:  
Suffolk County Department of Health
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 Contract with Half Hollow Hills Central 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 Half Hollow Hills Central 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.
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 Dasia Dosette and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing Musical Assistant Director-Stage Crew services to the District, effective February 24, 2025 through March 23, 2025, and said Agreement 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 Dasia Dosette and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing Stage Crew Advisor services to the District, effective December 13, 2024 through June 13, 2025, and said Agreement 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 hereby declares the following item located in Elwood Middle School as surplus and obsolete as it is beyond repair or outdated and allow for its appropriate removal:  
(1) Snow blower

**Q. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER**

1. WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District has incurred a series of unanticipated ordinary contingent expenses during the 2024-2025 budget year, which are necessary to effectuate the education of the students of the Elwood Union Free School District relating primarily to instruction and personnel; and  
WHEREAS, the District has available unassigned fund balance sufficient to fulfill its obligations to pay for these legally required expenditures; and  
WHEREAS, the District wishes to designate available unassigned fund balance to pay for these legally required expenditures;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes a budget revision increasing the budget in the amount of \$300,000 to allow for the use of unassigned fund balance to pay for the unanticipated ordinary contingent expenses referenced herein;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the transfer of \$300,000 of the available unassigned fund balance to the necessary item lines of the 2024-2025 Budget to allow for the payment of unanticipated ordinary contingent expenses, which the District is legally obligated to pay.

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 11/4/24, 11/12/24, 11/13/24, 11/14/24, 11/18/24, 11/19/24, 11/20/24, 11/22/24, 12/2/24 and 12/4/24 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 10/23/24, 11/14/24 and 11/20/24 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.

**R. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT**

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**S. ADJOURNMENT – 9:05 p.m.**

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx  
District Clerk