

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 27, 2025

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**A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:24 p.m.**

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment history of particular persons at 6:24 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no.

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

2. Mr. Scarola moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no.

**C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:38 p.m.**

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

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

Present: James Tomeo	President
Deborah Weiss	Vice President
Walter Edwards	Member
Thomas Scarola	Member

Absent: Dr. Sara Siddiqui	Member
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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 Vice President**

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

1. March 13, 2025 Regular Business Meeting  
Mr. Scarola moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of March 13, 2025.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

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

Nicola Palisciano, JGHS Senior Class President, presented Caroline Weiss' report on her behalf.

## **G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele**

BOE Committee Update: James Tomeo

## **H. COMMENDATIONS**

We honored the following individuals for their outstanding accomplishments or contributions made to Elwood Schools.

<b>Varsity Track</b>	<b>Wrestling</b>		<b>Swimming</b>
Tyler Hago	Thomas Aiello	Max Feinman	Evan Creter
Emelia Maletta	Taylor Aiello	Peter Bell	
Olivia Maletta	Aidan Lee	David Futeran	
Erika Hartough	Carmine Gerbino	Justus Awadalla	
Morgan Hepburn	Gianni Vargas	Joseph LaMay-McKell	
Davin Li	Brady McCormack	Dylan Bulger	
Benny Lee	Syed Naqi Abbas	Nikolaos Drakopoulos	
Kacper Jasinski	Ashton Presti	David Chavez	
James D'Angeli	KaRahn King	David Rafiq	
	Keith King	Jack Divers	
	Jaxson	Aras Buz	
	Ricardo Jimenez	Elijah Porpora	
		Luca Palisciano	

## **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. Special Education Update - Eileen Kelly-Gorman, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education
2. Budget Workshop #4 – Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent of Business

## **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 donation, with gratitude:
  - 1) \$4,220 from the Elwood Booster Club to support the following after school clubs for the 2025 Early Spring Season:
    - \*\*Boyd Sweets & Treats (5 weeks-1 session-\$400)
    - \*\*Boyd Sweets & Treats (5 weeks-1 session TA-\$100)
    - \*\*Boyd Coding (5 weeks-1 session-\$400)
    - \*\*Boyd Video Gaming (6 weeks-1 session-\$480)
    - \*\*Boyd Dance (6 weeks-1 session-\$480)
    - \*\*Harley Sweets & Treats (5 weeks-2 sessions-\$800)
    - \*\*Harley Sweets & Treats (5 weeks-1 session TA-\$100)
    - \*\*Harley Computer Explorers (6 weeks-1 session-\$480)
    - \*\*Harley Art Club (6 weeks-1 session-\$480)

- \*\*Harley Art Club (5 weeks-1 session-\$400)
- \*\*Harley Art Club (5 weeks-1 session TA-\$100)

Mr. Scarola moved and Mr. Edwards 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. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items M.1, N.1-N.3, O.1-O.4, P.1), as presented to the Board at this meeting.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

**M. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. 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 amends the following previously approved coach appointment, for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Coaching Appointment	Building	Previously Appointed Advisor/Coach	Previous Appointment Date	Resignation	New Appointment	Effective Date	Stipend
Boys Lacrosse	EMS	Adam Goudreau	February 13, 2025	March 11, 2025	Christopher Jacobi	March 24, 2025	\$4,995

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints John O'Sullivan, who holds a Teaching Assistant Level 1 Certificate, to a four-year probationary term as a Teaching Assistant, commencing on March 24, 2025 and terminating on March 23, 2029 in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant with compensation of \$26,232, (prorated, Step 1).
3. 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 March 28, 2025 through June 6, 2025:

Name	Initial School Assignment
Brett Kelly	James H. Boyd Intermediate School

**O. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and pursuant to Section 912 of the Education Law, the Board of Education President and the Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to execute a contract between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Commack Union Free School District for health and welfare services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Commack Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,910.92 per eligible child for the 2024-2025 school year, and said contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and pursuant to Section 912 of the Education Law, the Board of Education President and the Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District for health and welfare services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,548.49 per eligible child for the period September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, 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 an Agreement with St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing athletic training services to the District, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and

WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the "Participant") is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the "Program") in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES' standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, evaluating bids, awarding via Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board approval, and reporting the results to the Participant.

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges that "additional insured" status shall be secured by signing a risk transfer/Indemnification Agreement when engaging services through the Cooperative Bidding Program with each awarded vendor when Services are requested. Said agreement must be signed by both parties and will remain in effect for the current term of the Bid. In the event the Bid is extended, and a Participant requires Service, a new risk transfer/Indemnification Agreement must be executed.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday,

which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

**P. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the amended Legal Notice of the Annual School District Election, Budget Vote and Budget Hearing, previously approved at the meeting of March 13, 2025, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

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

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**R. ADJOURNMENT – 9:29 p.m.**

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx  
District Clerk