

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

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**A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:06 p.m.**

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding a particular person at 6:06 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 and Eileen Kelly-Gorman.

2. Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 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: 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                  |
| Dr. Sonia Hood          | Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum        |
| Eileen Kelly Gorman     | Assistant Superintendent/Special Education |
| Mary Lou Marx           | District Clerk                             |

|         |                 |                                   |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Absent: | Lorraine Dunkel | Assistant Superintendent/Business |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|

**D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE – Board President**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Board and those in attendance, observed a moment of silence to reflect on those that were lost on September 11, 2001.

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

1. August 29, 2024 Regular Business Meeting  
Mr. Scarola moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of August 29, 2024.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**F. COMMENDATIONS**

We honored the following for their community service and volunteerism:

Jada Casey, Jakeem Casey, Joey Mammolito, Meghan McGowan, Christina Munch, Ellie Crowley, Olivia Hechler, Madison Sorok, Caroline Weiss and Khoshal Rametra

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

**H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – 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. DISCUSSION ITEM - None**

**K. BOARD RECOGNITION OF DONATION**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the John Glenn Football Alumni Association's donation, with gratitude, of ninety (90) Guardian Football Caps to the Elwood School District's Athletic Program for the Varsity, Junior Varsity and Middle School programs, with a value of \$5,100.

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: 5-yes, 0-no.

**L. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items M.1-M.11, N.1-N.2, O.1-O.4), as presented to the Board at this meeting.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**M. 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 Sara Viesta, from her position as a Teaching Assistant, effective August 29, 2024.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Thomas Braun III, from his position as a Groundskeeper, effective September 7, 2024.
3. WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Education Law Section 3012-d and Part 30-3.10 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the individuals named below have completed all the necessary training to be recertified as lead evaluators of building principals;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby recertifies

the following individuals as lead evaluators of building principals for the 2024-2025 school year:

Dr. Gayle Steele, Dr. Sonia Hood, Eileen Kelly-Gorman

4. WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirement of Education Law Section 3012-d and Part 30-3.10 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the individuals named below have completed all the necessary training to be recertified as lead evaluators of classroom teachers; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby recertifies the following individuals as lead evaluators of classroom teachers for the 2024-2025 school year:

Dr. Gayle Steele, Sonia Hood, Eileen Kelly-Gorman, Corey McNamara, Patricia Sihksnel, Lindsay Fritch, Christina Moran, Julie Bilello, Dawn Valle, Denise Toscano, Elissa Millan, Pamela Fine, David Shanahan, Christopher Onorato, Irene McLaughlin

5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following overages for the 2024-2025 school year:

| Name           | School | Additional  | Total    | Effective Date    |
|----------------|--------|-------------|----------|-------------------|
| Christina Long | Harley | 0.03 Music  | 1.03 FTE | September 3, 2024 |
| Kelly DiBiase  | JGHS   | 0.2 Reading | 1.2 FTE  | September 9, 2024 |

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the following overage for the 2024-2025 school year, effective September 3, 2024:

| Previous Appointed Employee | Overage | Date Appointed  | Subject          | Newly Appointed Employees   | Overage            | Subject          |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Alice Wolcott               | 0.2 FTE | August 29, 2024 | Civic Literacies | Janet Weber<br>Richard Rose | 0.1 FTE<br>0.1 FTE | Civic Literacies |

7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board of Education President and the Superintendent of Schools (if required) to sign and execute the Amendments to the Salary and Benefits Agreements for the following employees, as presented to the Board at this meeting, effective July 1, 2024:

Mara Pugh  
Elizabeth Schwartz  
Karen Wenda  
April Giardina  
Linda Pellegrino  
Lisa McNamara

8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby expands the position of Jill Campbell, from a part-time Office Assistant position effective February 28, 2022 to a 1.0 FTE Office Assistant position (10 month), effective September 16, 2024, in the competitive class of the civil service, with compensation of \$36,523, prorated (Step 2).

9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following mentors for the 2024-2025 school year:

| Mentor | Period | Compensation |
|--------|--------|--------------|
|--------|--------|--------------|

|               |             |         |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| Donna Fife    | 2 Semesters | \$1,000 |
| Julian Gordon | 1 Semester  | \$500   |

10. 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 September 13, 2024 through June 6, 2025:

| Name         | Initial School Assignment    |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Julia Murphy | Harley Avenue Primary School |

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

**N. 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 Green Chimneys Children's Services, Inc. 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 President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract with Scott Simpson, Consultant and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing after-school 1:1 IBI services to the District, effective July, 2024 through June, 2025, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

**O. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby adopts the Board of Education Goals for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby appoints Deborah Weiss as the Voting Delegate for the NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting to be held virtually on October 10, 2024.
3. 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 Scan Machine  
 (1) EMS Desk
4. 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 5/16/24, 6/18/24, 8/20/24, 9/4/24 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 8/15/24 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.

**P. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA** - None

**Q. COMMUNICATIONS** - None

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

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**V. ADJOURNMENT – 8:12 p.m.**

Mr. Scarola moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx  
District Clerk