

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING &  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 21, 2024

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**A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:01 p.m.**

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussions related to a pupil personnel matter made confidential under FERPA at 6:01 p.m.

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

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

2. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

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

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

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:41 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Deborah Weiss	Vice President
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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
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**D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President**

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

1. October 17, 2024 Regular Business Meeting  
Mr. Edwards moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of October 17, 2024.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

**F. COMMENDATIONS**

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

Katherine Moravec – 2025 Salutatorian

Demetrius Crichlow – National merit Commended Student

Patrick Heffron – Youth Advisory Panel for New York State

Kasey Alfaro Contreras and Christine Felix – Social Justice Ambassador’s Program

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

**H. PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to open the Public Hearing at 8:07 p.m. in the Elwood Middle School Library.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.
  
2. Residents Remarks Regarding the Smart Schools Bond Plan  
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.
  
3. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:07 p.m. in the Elwood Middle School Library.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

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

**J. DISCUSSION ITEM – Discussion Regarding Regionalization**

**K. RESIDENTS’ REMARKS REGARDING THE AGENDA**

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**L. PRESENTATIONS**

1. K-8 iReady Data & Academic Updates - Dr. Sonia Hood, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

2. Elementary ELA Pilot Update - Dr. Sonia Hood, Pamela Fine, Elissa Millan, Jill Smith & Bari Shapiro

**M. 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) \$2,500 from the Elwood Athletic Club to support the purchase and installation of a permanent basketball hoop at Elwood Middle School
  - 2) \$500 from SEPTA to support the special education guest speaker, David Flood, at Harley Avenue Primary School during the 2024-2025 school year
  - 3) \$500 from SEPTA to support the special education guest speaker, Ronan Murphy, at Elwood Middle School during the 2024-2025 school year
  - 4) \$250 from SEPTA to support STEAM Night materials
  - 5) \$1,000 from SEPTA to support the guest speaker, Valerie Goldstein and book for all classrooms at Harley & Boyd
  - 6) \$6,000 from SEPTA to support the Unified Sports/Best Buddies/Knights United/Blooming Buddies for the 2024-2025 school year
  - 7) \$3,000 from Elwood Booster Club to support the "Names Not Numbers" program at John H. Glenn High School
  - 8) \$455 from the Elwood Booster Club to support the Superintendent's Conference Day breakfast at JGHS and EMS on November 5, 2024
  - 9) \$3,020 from Elwood Booster Club to support the following after-school clubs for our students in the fall of 2024:
    - a) Boyd Chess Club (4 weeks, 1 session) - \$320
    - b) Boyd Maker Space Club (5 weeks, 1 session) - \$400
    - c) Boyd Coding Club (4 weeks, 1 session) - \$320
    - d) Harley Sweets & Treats Club (5 weeks, 2 sessions) - \$800
    - e) Harley Art Club (5 weeks, 2 sessions) - \$800
    - f) Harley Coding Club (5 weeks, 1 session) - \$400
  - 10) A Guinness World Records Book 2024 from the Elwood Middle School PTA, to the EMS Library, with a value of \$32.53

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

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

**N. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items O.1-O.2, P.1-P.14, Q.1-Q.8, R.1-R.3), as presented to the Board at this meeting. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

**O. 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 Reports for July, August & September, 2024
  - b) Revenue Status Reports through August & September, 2024
  - c) Cash Flow Report for July & August, 2024
  - d) Budget Status Reports through August & September, 2024
  - e) Trial Balance Reports through August & September, 2024
  - f) Executive Summaries for July, August & September, 2024

- g) Budget Transfer Report through August 31, 2024
- h) School Lunch Fund Report through September 30, 2024
- i) Extra Classroom Reports for JGHS and EMS through September, 2024
- j) Claims Auditor Reports for September & October, 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.

**P. 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 Judi D'Amico, from her position as a Paraprofessional, effective December 3, 2024.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Nancy Andrews, from her position as a Teaching Assistant, effective November 29, 2024.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Lisa Suriano as a part-time Paraprofessional (4 hours/day), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a sixty (60) month probationary term commencing November 22, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$16.88 per hour for the 2024-2025 school year.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as Boyd after-school advisors to the corresponding clubs as presented:  
 1-Marsha McLeod to Boyd Scrabble Club (4 Sessions, October through November, 2024) - \$320  
 2-Elizabeth Held to Boyd Maker Space Club (5 Sessions, October through November, 2024) - \$400  
 3-Lauren Baker to Boyd Coding Club (4 Sessions, October through November, 2024) - \$320
5. 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 on October 17, 2024, for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Club	Building	Previously Appointed Advisor(s)	Previous Stipend	Corrected Stipend
Memory Book/Photographer Advisor	EMS	Joanna Osman	\$862	\$3,622
Video Yearbook	EMS	Jon Rowland	\$3,622	\$862

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Alice Wolcott as the Online Learning Site Coordinator for the Virtual High School, effective September 4, 2024, with compensation of \$6,000 for the 2024-2025 school year.

7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Timothy Eatman as a part-time 0.5 FTE Custodial Worker I, in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twelve-month probationary term commencing November 22, 2024, at a rate of \$26,180 (pro-rated), for the 2024-2025 school year.
8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves additional compensation for the following teachers for the duration of the leave of Employee #2879, effective November 18, 2024, with compensation as presented:

Name	Subject Area	School	Compensation
Deidra O'Brien	Period 1 AP Research	JGHS	0.2 FTE
Lindsay Brady	Period 3 AP Research	JGHS	0.2 FTE
Lori Fornaro	Period 5 Living Environment	JGHS	0.2 FTE
Lori Fornaro	Period 6A Living Environment Lab	JGHS	0.1 FTE
Shannon Rooney	Period 8A Living Environment Lab	JGHS	0.1 FTE
Therese Reagan	Period 9 Living Environment	JGHS	0.2 FTE

9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as Permanent Substitutes, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, at a rate of \$150.00 per day worked:

Name	Initial School Assignment	Effective Date
Tara Ryder	James H. Boyd Intermediate School	December 2, 2024 - June 6, 2025
Allison Parker	James H. Boyd Intermediate School	December 9, 2024 - June 6, 2025

10. 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
Curriculum Writing	up to 5 Hours	Kristen Poulos
Parent University Workshop and BOE Presentations	up to 6 Hours per teacher	Bari Shapiro Jill Smith
Parent University Workshop	Up to 1 Hour per teacher	Marsha McLeod

11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves additional compensation to Moira Citko for hours served outside the traditional school day to provide training and support to staff in the area of behavior intervention, at the hourly rate of \$66.00 per hour for the 2024-2025 school year.
12. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves additional compensation to special education staff members for Nonviolent Crisis Prevention Intervention Training hours received outside the traditional school day, with compensation at their hourly rates of pay, not to exceed five (5) hours per employee, as per their collective bargaining unit agreement for the 2024-2025 school year.
13. 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, effective November 22, 2024:

Jaron Betts - Voluntary Lacrosse Coach (pending issuance of Temporary Coaching License)

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

**Q. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and after having conducted a public hearing and having given the community an opportunity to be heard, the Board of Education hereby approves the Smart Schools Bond Plan to be submitted to the New York State Education Department.
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 Oyster Bay-East Norwich 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 hereby authorizes the Board of Education President to sign and execute an Agreement with the Little Flower Union Free School District, whereby Little Flower UFSD will provide special education services for student(s) who reside within the boundaries of the Elwood UFSD, at the tuition rate set by the State Education Department, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the bids awarded by the Long Island School Nutrition Directors' Association (LISNDA), for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at 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 Jeffrey Salgo and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing student workshop 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.
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 Josephine McSwane and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing musical choreographer services to the District, effective December 1, 2024 through March 23, 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 President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service

Contract with Kristine Peiliker and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing services to the District, effective August, 2024 through March, 2025, and said Agreement 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 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:  
Cleary School for the Deaf  
Harmony Heights  
Kidz Therapy Services Related Services  
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**R. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the 2025-2026 School Budget Development & Annual Meeting Calendar, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District hereby approves the terms and conditions of the Stipulation of Settlement resolving a certain matter between the District and the parents of a student classified by the District's CSE and identified by student number 102092721, and;  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board to execute the stipulation of settlement on the District's behalf.
3. 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 3/12/24, 9/30/24, 10/10/24, 10/15/24, 10/16/24, 10/25/24, 10/28/24, 10/29/24, 10/30/24, 11/04/24, 11/05/24, 11/06/24 and 11/14/24 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 10/9/24, 10/15/24, 10/17/24, 10/23/24 and 10/30/24 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.

**S. POLICIES**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Board Policy Sub-Committee, the Board of Education hereby approves the second reading and adoption of the following policies, as presented to the Board at this meeting:  
4526.1 Internet Safety  
4526.1-R Internet Safety Regulation  
8635-E Parents' Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy and Security

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

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

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

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

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**V. RECONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION - 9:44 p.m.**

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding a personnel matter at 9:44 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

**W. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 10:43 p.m.**

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to return into Open Session at 10:43 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

**X. ADJOURNMENT – 10:43 p.m.**

Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx  
District Clerk